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CHRISTIAN BALE REFLECTS ON HIS FIRST CLAUSTROPHOBIC EXPERIENCE IN THE BAT SUIT PAGE 24

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Meet your new flag-bearer

Olympics. London Games hold opening ceremonies on July 27

Some consider it a jinx, others too much of a distraction, but Simon Whitfield says being Canada's flag-bearer will be his secret weapon.

The triathlete will lead the Canadian team into the opening ceremonies at the London Olympics later this month.

Whitfield, 37, won a gold medal for Canada at the 2000 Sydney Games, where triathlon made its Olympic debut, and then captured a silver at the 2008 Beijing Games.

And the native of Kingston, Ont., suggested Thursday after being introduced as flag-bearer that the honour of carrying the Maple Leaf will help him reach the podium once again.

"It's a good-luck charm," he said after accepting the flag during a ceremony on Parliament Hill. "Look at the guys, the people who have carried it — it's so last century that it's a jinx."

Canada's flag-bearer for the 2010 Winter Olympics was Clara Hughes, who went on to win a bronze medal in speed-skating.

At the 2008 Beijing Games, kayaker Adam van Koeverden won a silver medal in the 500 metres after carrying the flag.

Whitfield said after he received a call last week from Canada's chef de mission, Mark Tewksbury, notifying him of the honour, he went for a run to the Terry Fox marker in Victoria, where he lives and trains.

Along the way, he thought about his fellow Canadian Olympians such as boxer Mary Spencer and women's soccer captain Christine Sinclair. When he reached the Terry Fox statue he high-fived it.

Then he began plotting a strategy to ensure carrying the flag wouldn't be a distraction from his Games preparation.

"The logistics of it would have been difficult except I have a great team," he said. "The first thing Mark said to me on the phone was that we will make sure this doesn't impact your race." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Triathlete Simon Whitfield of British Columbia waves the Canadian flag after he was named the official flag-bearer for the London Olympics during a ceremony on Parliament Hill Thursday in Ottawa. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 missing after landslide

3 homes dealt severe blow in remote Johnsons Landing in southeast B.C. PAGE 2

Fishing gear doomed whale

Dead humpback starved after getting entangled, says Fisheries Department PAGE 6

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NEWS

On the web

What's a wake without a Starbucks brew?

Would a premium cup of Starbucks coffee be a great deal of comfort after a funeral? Go to metronews.ca to find out why one funeral home in the U.S. seems to think so.

Mobile news

Dogs are judged on the way they mount, their speed, stamina and dismount — so says the announcer at The Humpy Awards. Does this sound like a real award celebrating the natural behaviour of pooches or something else? Scan the code to find out more.

Johnsons Landing

Four missing after landslide in southeast B.C.

Roland Procter was enjoying a good read on his garden deck Thursday morning when an unmistakable noise shattered his peace, and within seconds, several of his neighbours' lives.

"It was a prolonged 20- to 30-second rumbling that was unlike any rumbling I've ever heard," the retired doctor said from his home in Johnsons Landing in southeastern British Columbia. "I realized right away there was only one thing it could be."

Procter listened from only 500 metres away as a massive torrent of mud gushed down from Gar Creek, sweeping up large trees and snapping them like toothpicks as the muck engulfed the southern half of his tiny village.

At least three homes were destroyed in the powerful deluge, which had search-and-rescue crews frantically digging for four people who are unaccounted for. Rescuers fear they may have been buried in the late-morning slide.

Equipment and road crews were dispatched to the scene, about 70 kilometres northeast of Nelson, B.C., to help responders who were expected to keep working throughout the night.

It has not yet been confirmed whether the residents were inside when the landslide rolled over their homes.

"RCMP and search-and-rescue emergency responders on the site are trying to determine whether they were out of the community or in their homes. We don't know that information," said Bill Macpherson, a public information officer with Central Kootenay Regional District.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Haze from on high

People take in the view from Grouse Mountain on Thursday as a thick smoky haze blankets West Vancouver in the background. The heavy smoke presence is said to be from forest fires in Siberia. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberals accused of bending to lobbyists — once again

Liquor distribution. Privatization scheme 'looks far too much like the debacle with BC Rail,' says NDP critic

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

The NDP has accused the government of sipping Exel Canada's Kool-Aid as B.C. looks to privatize liquor distribution.

In an Aug. 2, 2011, letter sent by solicitor general Shirley Bond, obtained by the Opposition party through freedom of information, the Liberal government explicitly said it was not interested in selling off distribution to a private company.

But it appears Exel Canada (an Ontario-based logistics company that is responsible for liquor distribution in Alberta) and Progressive Group (a lobbying firm run by Patrick Kinsella and Mark Jiles, both with ties to the Liberals) managed to change the government's mind during a meeting later that summer.

NDP critic Shane Simpson said the documents show the privatization scheme is "tainted," and is driven by private interests instead of taxpayer savings.

"It looks far too much like the debacle with BC Rail. British Columbians do not need this again," said Simpson. "There is not one shred of evidence that there is any motivation for this other than to appease Exel."

Exel Canada Ltd. is currently one of six companies in the running to take over the province's liquor warehousing and distribution services.

Minister Margaret MacDiarmid admitted the government had twice decided against privatization, in 2002 and 2006, but tried to deny lobbyists influenced the change of heart.

"Every government does have people that come forward — companies, lobbyists, individuals — with ideas," she said. "Governments do change their minds. (Privatization) is something we had considered before.... We decided this was a time we should think about doing this."

MacDiarmid said the government's primary concern is balancing the budget, and insisted there is no secret agreement with Exel.

Simpson said the Liberals, heavily down in the polls, are just trying to rush through a deal before the May 2013 provincial election.

A three-company shortlist will be named July 20 — but only if the government determines privatization will bring cost savings, MacDiarmid stressed. But she was unable to put an estimate on how much the government stands to save.

"Once the successful proponent is chosen, we can say what the savings may be," the minister said.

Timeline

- The winner of the bidding process will be named in October and then be expected to sign an agreement by March 2013.

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Baseball 101 with Jays greats

Hall of Fame tips. Team alumni run Super Camp at Nat Bailey stadium in Vancouver

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Scott Johnston plays second base and says learning a few tricks of the trade from MLB Hall of Famer Roberto Alomar was as good as it gets.

The 13-year-old got the ultimate baseball experience, improving his skills and learning techniques from former Toronto Blue Jays alumni, including Alomar, Lloyd Moseby, John Olerud and Duane Ward.

Johnston was one of 125 young boys who participated at the Blue Jays Super Camp at Vancouver's Nat Bailey Stadium on Thursday.

"It was just a huge honour," Johnston said. "This is my first time (at this camp) and it's the best first time ever."

Alomar, who won the World Series with the Jays in 1992 and 1993, said it feels good when kids approach him after the camp to say thank you, but he says he's in it to inspire children and let them have a good time.

"I think it's really gratifying to know that these kids love baseball," he said. "It reminds me of myself, when I was their age, going to little-league camps."

For Moseby, it's all about giving back.

"Somebody helped me when I was young," he said. "And that's what sometimes a lot of major leaguers forget, especially the new guys.

"They forget that somebody helped them. So now as you get older, it's really a privilege to come out and try to give one tip. If one tip helps them, who knows, these kids could be in the major leagues someday."

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

Two-time World Series champion Roberto Alomar teaches kids how to correctly throw a ball during the Blue Jays Super Camp at Vancouver's Nat Bailey Stadium Thursday. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

B.C. court rules against compensating people caught by drunk-driving law

A decision by a British Columbia court spares the government from paying an estimated $50 million in compensation, and forces people caught up in drunk-driving laws ruled unconstitutional to swallow their losses.

The judgment affects thousands of individuals who were issued the penalties between September 2010, when the tough laws were enacted, and December 2011, when one part of the legislation was ruled unconstitutional.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Jon Sigurdson ruled in December that penalties for a part of the new laws were too harsh for people who blew over the alcohol level of .08, but he upheld the penalties for those who blew in the warning range between the .05 and .08 level.

Those who were dinged with fines and lost their licences came back to court seeking financial compensation for penalties and other costs related to their roadside suspensions but were denied.

In his ruling, issued Thursday, involving the case of three people subjected to the penalties, Sigurdson said the part of the law he ruled unconstitutional is not retroactive, meaning the penalties stand.

"The petitions are not entitled to the monetary and personal remedies that they seek as the law was valid at the time it applied to the petitions," said Sigurdson.

Jeremy Carr, the lawyer representing those who successfully challenged the legislation, said the judgement "doesn't seem right."

"In my opinion what the court has decided isn't fair," said Carr. "Not to people that have had all these penalties suspended and after it's been found unconstitutional, now they're told they've got to go (pay the fines)."

Carr said he didn't think his clients would be on the hook for the penalties.

"I didn't expect the court would go as far as we were asking, but I thought there would be a reasonable compromise — because we won," he said.

"Now (clients) are told, 'Yeah you won, good stuff. Now you've got to go pay the penalties and give us your licence.'"

Lawyers for those who were issued the immediate roadside suspensions argued that if the government knew of a potential constitutional challenge its only options were either to forgo passing the legislation or to refer it to the courts for a constitutional reference. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Financial chaos'

- During an earlier court hearing debating the compensation claim, government lawyer George Copley said the cost of compensating drivers would come to about $50 million and would send the province into "financial chaos."

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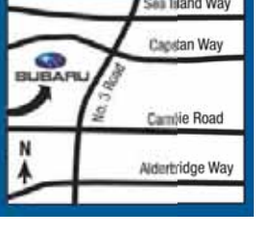

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Stolen Hermes. Woman, 50, assaulted in scam, robbery

A Richmond woman was tied up in her own home and assaulted after she fell victim to an insurance claim scam, according to RCMP.

On June 26, two male suspects approached a 50-year-old woman at her home in the 7000-block of Petts Road, stating they wanted to talk to her about an insurance claim involving her vehicle.

"This is a case where this lady was tricked," said Richmond RCMP spokesperson Cpl. Sherrdean Turley. "Out of the kindness of her heart, she let them in and they took advantage of that."

Once the suspects had entered the home, they overpowered the woman, tied her up and assaulted her. Two more men burst into the home and the four robbers raided the home, stealing numerous suitcases and purses.

Among the stolen goods were seven Hermes purses, valued at $5,000 to $15,000 each.

The victim, who suffered minor facial injuries, was able to wiggle free of her restraints and call police after the robbers had fled.

Turley said it's not known whether the woman was specifically targeted, but Mounties warn residents to be vigilant against scam artists.

"If something is not adding up, if something seems fishy, find a way to remove yourself from the situation," said Turley.

Police believe all four suspects are men between the ages of 20 and 25 — one being of Asian and one being of South Asian descent. Anyone with information is asked to call police.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Bare with me, honey

Steve Kisby, left, and Judy Williams go for a run at Vancouver's Sunset Beach Thursday in preparation for the upcoming 16th annual Wreck Beach Bare Buns Run. The run takes place Sunday at 11 a.m. Funds raised go to the Wreck Beach Preservation Society to help maintain the popular clothing-optional beach. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

A Department of Fisheries and Oceans official checks a fishing net that was tangled around a beached humpback whale that died during low tide in White Rock on June 12. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gear caused whale to starve: Expert

Beached whale in White Rock. More young humpbacks are getting entangled in fishing gear, fisheries spokesperson says

A Fisheries Department spokesman says a humpback whale that washed up on the beach in White Rock, B.C., had fishing gear caught in its mouth before it starved to death.

Paul Cottrell says it's tough to pin down where the long-line fishing gear came from or whether it was being used or abandoned.

He says more and more young humpbacks are getting entangled in fishing gear and other items as they move into in-shore waters.

A veterinary pathologist has said ropes were buried deep in the whale's mouth and that it likely died a slow death after beaching itself on the tidal mud flats of the beach south of Vancouver on June 12.

Gouges on the whale's body revealed how it had been entangled, and also suggest it had developed infections from the injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Identifying the whale

- Fisheries experts are working to identify the emaciated juvenile from the patterns on its tail flukes.
- They hope to determine where it came from.

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Battle of the drivers

Town designates 'men only' parking

Triberg, a town in southwest Germany, has drawn accusations of sexism after designating two particularly tricky parking spaces "men only." The mayor says women would find it difficult to park there. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Misunderstanding?

Poster will remain despite criticism

A poster showing a baby with a Hitler moustache is staying up at Montreal's Just For Laughs Festival. The image had drawn the ire of B'nai Brith, with the group saying it conjured up disturbing memories. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A poster advertising the show Le Prenom in Montreal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec student protest

Organizers to visit Ontario campuses

Quebec organizers responsible for the longest and largest student strike in Canadian history are taking their message to Ontario university campuses. The nine-day solidarity tour kicks off Thursday night in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sinclair inquiry

Social workers' request denied

Dozens of Manitoba social workers who dealt with a young girl who died of abuse and neglect will not be anonymous when they testify at a public inquiry into her death, the inquiry commissioner decided Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Another tragedy

Toddler drowns in Quebec pool

Another Quebec infant has died after drowning in a swimming pool. The two-year-old girl drowned Thursday — just four days after an 18-month-old girl suffered the same fate and a week after a 16-month-old girl died. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slow removal makes for interesting backdrop

Tourists relax on rocks in front of the Costa Concordia wreckage on the Giglio Island, Italy, on Thursday. Work has begun to remove the tons of rocky reef embedded into the cruise ship's hull, a first step in plans to eventually tow the wreck away from the island, where it ran aground last January. In a broadcast interview Tuesday, Concordia's captain Francesco Schettino described the collision as a "banal accident" in which "destiny" played a role. GREGORIO BORGIA|THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Penn State officials showed 'disregard' for victims: Report

Sandusky scandal. Further abuse could have been prevented had Paterno, staff acted after 1998 incident

Ex-Penn State coach Joe Paterno THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joe Paterno and other top Penn State officials hushed up child sex-abuse allegations against Jerry Sandusky more than a decade ago for fear of bad publicity, allowing the former assistant football coach to prey on other youngsters, according to a scathing report issued Thursday on the scandal.

"Our most saddening and sobering finding is the total disregard for the safety and welfare of Sandusky's child victims by the most senior leaders at Penn State," said former FBI director Louis Freeh, who was hired to look into one of sports' biggest scandals.

The firm's 267-page report, following an eight-month probe, stated that sexual abuse might have been prevented if school officials had banned Sandusky from bringing children onto campus after a 1998 inquiry. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fuel truck. Explosion kills at least 95 Nigerians

A truck carrying fuel caught fire and exploded in Nigeria on Thursday after it veered off the road into a ditch, killing at least 95 people who had rushed to the scene to scoop fuel that had spilled, an official said.

At least 50 others were injured in the incident in the oil-rich southern Niger Delta region.

The fuel truck was trying to avoid a head-on collision with buses when it swerved into the ditch. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missing prosperity

- Despite decades as an oil producing region, the majority of those living in the Niger Delta remain desperately poor.
- The OPEC member now pumps out about 2.4 million barrels of oil a day, making it Africa's biggest producer.

TD. Iranian community angered by bank bans

Iranian Canadians whose accounts with one of Canada's biggest banks have closed say they feel they're being treated as second-class citizens.

Members of the community say TD Canada Trust began notifying a number of Iranian-Canadian clients in May that it would no longer provide them with banking services.

Some of the letters sent out earlier this month indicated the bank was closing the accounts in order to comply with Ottawa's economic sanctions against the Iranian regime. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sounding off

"No Canadians should be subject to this. A discrimination and charter challenge should be in place."

A comment posted on TD's Facebook page

French Alps. Avalanche kills 9 European climbers

A slab of ice broke off Thursday high in the French Alps, sparking an avalanche that swept nine Europeans to their deaths as they tried to climb Mont Blanc, authorities said.

Eleven other climbers were hospitalized and at least four are still unaccounted for.

Two climbers were rescued and emergency crews continue to search. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gendarmes use blankets to hide victims of an avalanche. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sightings and abductions. Britain releases UFO files

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

The hidden history of the UFO desk at Britain's Ministry of Defence (MOD) was released for the first time on Thursday, with 6,700 pages of files dating back to 1965. The desk, which closed in 2009, collated all information on UFOs and handled public inquiries.

The listed sightings include abductions, alien hypnosis and numerous spaceships. One such account from a policeman describes a "square/diamond shaped object moving across the sky and changing shape" at Chelsea's football stadium in 1999.

Several accounts from Royal Air Force pilots describe crafts flying alongside them. The department estimated that nine per cent of sightings could be explained, but could not secure funding to research the others.

Internal communications reveal that UFOs were taken seriously. One intelligence document expresses interest in developing weapons based on UFO technology — "phenomena associated with plasma formations, which have potential applications to novel weapon technology".

UFO expert Dr. David Clarke, who campaigned for the files to be released, told Metro: "Intelligence (departments) were prepared to speculate, as they believed the documents would never reach the public." Clarke added that the MOD "couldn't say UFOs were not a threat until they had a database and studies."

The Great Debate

The released files are unlikely to end the debate. A recent survey from National Geographic found that a third of people believe in UFO visits, and there are thousands of "ufologist" groups around the world.

- **The Believers.** "It's comparable to a religious faith," British UFO Research Association spokesman John Wickham told Metro. "The most common belief is that there is life outside of Earth."
- **Coming forward.** Suspicions received a boost on Monday when a former CIA agent claimed to have new evidence from the 'Roswell Incident' in 1947, when the US military allegedly covered up a UFO crash.

California surfers getting their goat on

Dana McGregor, from Pismo Beach, left, surfs with his pet goat, Pismo, and pals Mark and Debbie Gale in San Clemente, Calif. McGregor started taking Pismo's mother, Goatee, to the beach, and it wasn't long before she was on a surfboard. When Pismo was born, McGregor put her on a board, too, and she was a natural, he says.

RON VEAL/ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Health Canada

Parents warned to be careful with detergent packs

Health Canada is warning parents to keep laundry detergent packs away from small kids after receiving reports of children ingesting the colourful miniature pods.

The brightly coloured packets with their squishy texture are attractive to children and often confused with candy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Germany

Uproar over circumcision ban

A German court's decision that ritual circumcision amounts to criminal bodily harm threatens religious freedom in Europe, a group of European Orthodox rabbis said Thursday.

The ruling prompted widespread criticism from Jewish and Muslim groups, despite German government attempts to allay fears that it could lead to a national ban on circumcisions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jewellers plead guilty to illegal ivory sales in N.Y.C.

Commercialization of wildlife. More than $2 million in elephant ivory seized

Two jewellers peddled reams of ivory bangles, beads and statues made from the tusks of endangered and threatened elephants, prosecutors said Thursday as the men admitted to a wildlife crime.

Mukesh Gupta, Johnson Jung-Chien Lu and their companies pleaded guilty to illegal commercialization of wildlife, forfeited a combined total of more than $2 million US in ivory and paid a total of $55,000 to aid the Wildlife Conservation Society's efforts to help elephants.

The jewellers' lawyers emphasized that the men admitted only to selling and offering ivory without a permit, establishing it came from before the animals were protected in the 1970s.

Two New York jewelry-store owners pleaded guilty to selling and offering for sale illegal elephant ivory with a retail value of more than $2 million US Thursday. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

But authorities and conservation experts said that much of the ivory was doubtless more recent and that stocking it in stores in Manhattan's diamond district inherently contributes to a worrisome boom in the illegal ivory trade.

"Poachers should not have a market in Manhattan," District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said at a news conference, standing before a table strewn with sized ivory rings, bracelets, complete tusks — and little carved figurines of the elephants from which authorities say it all came.

"If we only look at this issue as, 'Hey, I didn't have a permit,' and you ignore the consequences, you are fuelling the trade of wildlife crime. You are encouraging and fostering the extinction of species." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mongolian kids know how to horse around

Mongolian child jockeys compete in a horse-racing competition during the second day of the Naadam Festival held in Khui Doloon Khudag, on the outskirts of Ulan Bator, Mongolia, Thursday. Mongolians celebrate the anniversary of Genghis Khan's march to the world conquest with the annual sporting festival featuring traditional Mongolian events such as wrestling, archery and horse racing. ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal lawsuit

Five American Samoans fight for U.S. citizenship

Five people from American Samoa have filed a federal lawsuit arguing that they should be U.S. citizens. The lawsuit challenges the constitutionality of federal laws that make those born in American Samoa U.S. nationals but not citizens, like those born in other territories. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Labour

Couple jailed for exploiting workers

A British judge has sent a husband and wife to jail for exploiting and forcing men into labour for little or no pay.

James John and Josie Connors were convicted of exploiting and abusing the men at a caravan site in southern England and sentenced to 11 and four years respectively. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Landslide

Cliff collapse registers as quake

When a cliff collapsed in Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park in June, it sent rock and ice coursing down a valley and over a lovely white glacier in what could be one of the largest landslides recorded in North America.

The rumbling showed up as an earthquake in Alaska and Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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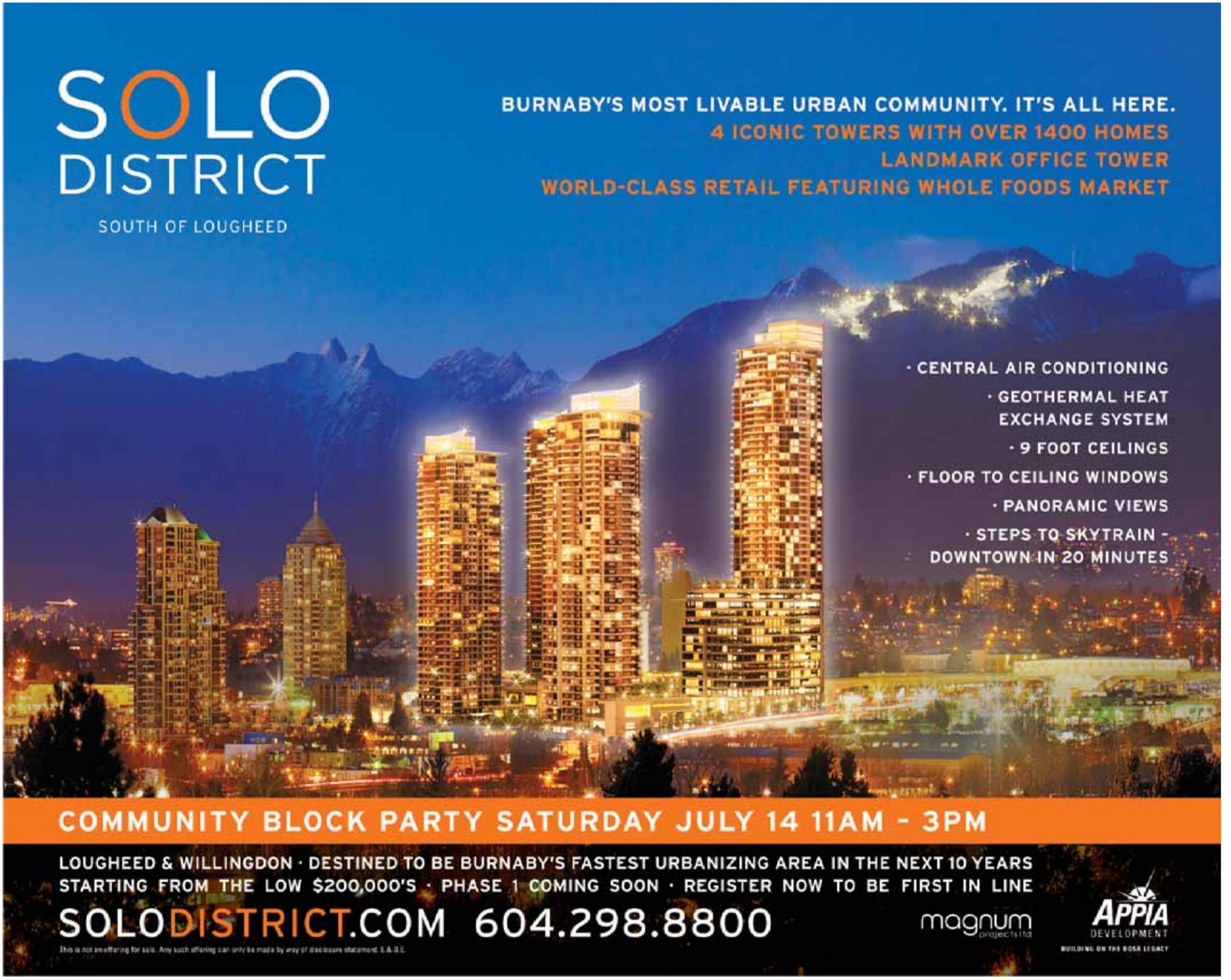
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Problems plague London ahead of Olympic Games

Logistics letdown.
Planning woes and aging infrastructure of host city hint of chaotic times ahead

A set of Olympic rings are seen standing in front of the Olympic and Paralympic athletes' village in London on Thursday.
MATT DUNHAM|THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With the Olympics just two weeks away, embarrassing logistical problems about security, staff, phones and traffic made the mood Thursday in London as gloomy as the weather.

British lawmakers clamoured for an explanation why the armed forces need to field more troops to protect the Games, eclipsing the day that U.S. track star Michael Johnson held the Olympic flame aloft at sunrise at the ancient monument at Stonehenge.

London's aging infrastructure kept offering up unpleasant surprises as the main road near Heathrow Airport remained closed following emergency repairs.

The British mobile-phone company O2, meanwhile, acknowledged that thousands of customers had been affected by outages on its network — a bad omen ahead of the first iPhone games.

London's aging transport network continued to befuddle planners who have been working — some for years — to get the city spruced up for the games and for the hundreds of thousands of tourists expected.

The main road linking Heathrow to London and Olympic Park remained closed. The Highways Agency said repairs had reached a critical stage and would continue on a damaged overpass least until the weekend.

But the big question mark remains as to whether the entire London transport infrastructure can handle the strain.

And then there was the weather. Rain on and off and on again.

London's Hyde Park — the site of outdoor concerts and other live events — has trucked in piles of wood chips to cover a muddy quagmire after the wettest June on record.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security shortfall

British Home Secretary Theresa May confirmed Thursday that the government will deploy an additional 3,500 servicemen at the London Olympics amid concerns that a private security firm failed to recruit enough staff.

- **Failure.** The firm G4S had been enlisted to provide 13,200 private security guards at 100 Olympic venues
- **A standing army.** The move brings the number of armed forces staff at the games to 17,000, dwarfing the 9,500 troops Britain has in Afghanistan

An Olympic first

Saudi Arabia's team includes female athletes

Saudi Arabia will send two female athletes to the London Olympics, ending the ultraconservative Muslim country's record of fielding only all-male teams at the games.

The decision, announced Thursday by the IOC, means every country competing in London will include women athletes for the first time in Olympic history.

Saudi Arabia has been under pressure from the IOC and human-rights groups to include women athletes. The two female Saudi competitors are judo athlete Wodjan Ali Seraj Abdulrahim Shahrkhani and 800-metre runner Sarah Attar. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Syria. Ambassador joins string of notable defectors

A string of high-profile defections from the Syrian regime has stirred hopes in the West that President Bashar Assad's inner circle will start abandoning him in greater numbers, hastening his downfall.

But the tightly protected regime has largely held together over the course of the 16-month-old uprising, driven by a mixture of fear and loyalty.

The latest official to flee, the Syrian ambassador to Iraq, Nawaf Fares, announced that he was joining the revolution, asserting Thursday that only force will drive Assad from power. He is the most senior diplomat to abandon Assad.

"There is no road map ever with Bashar Assad, because any plan, any statement that is agreed on internationally he delays on and ignores," Fares told the Al-Jazeera satellite channel.

"There is no way that he can be pushed from power without force, and the Syrian people realize this."

Syria's Foreign Ministry denounced Fares, saying he should face "legal and disciplinary accountability."

Syrian ambassador Nawaf Fares
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

In Washington, State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell hailed what he called the "first major diplomatic defection," adding: "We think this is a wider sign that the regime is feeling the pressure. The pressure is up and the regime is really starting to fall apart."

Fares is the second prominent Syrian to break with the regime in less than a week. Brig. Gen. Manaf Tlass, an Assad confidant and son of a former defence minister, defected last week, but has not spoken publicly. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuke tension. U.S. slaps new sanctions on Iran

The Obama administration on Thursday hit Iran with more sanctions designed to hinder the country's nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The Treasury Department announced new financial sanctions against 11 companies affiliated with the Iranian defence ministry, Revolutionary Guard Corps and national shipping line as well as a university, all for actions they took to support the programs. Several of the firms are already subject to U.S. and European sanctions.

Treasury also slapped penalties on four men, including an Austrian national and three Iranians, for similar activity.

"Iran today is under intense, multilateral sanctions pressure, and we will continue to ratchet up the pressure so long as Iran refuses to address the international community's well-founded concerns about its nuclear program," said David Cohen, Treasury's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence.

"Today's actions are our next step on that path, taking direct aim at disrupting Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs as well as its deceptive efforts to use front companies to sell and move its oil."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flood protection in Haiti to cost homes

A man shouts while holding a corner of a Haitian national flag during a march protesting a plan to demolish homes in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday. The government recently announced that it will raze hundreds of homes to build a flood-protection project in the ravine that looms over the capital and relocate the residents northeast of the city. DIEU NALIO CHERY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban take their revenge on police

Pakistan. Gunmen kill nine, injure eight in retaliation for torture of Taliban fighters

Taliban gunmen opened fire on a compound housing policemen in eastern Pakistan on Thursday, killing nine of them, officials said.

The police who were targeted in the city of Lahore were training to become prison guards, said Habibur Rehman, the chief of police in Punjab province, where Lahore is the capital.

Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ahsanullah Ahsan claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was revenge for the police torture of their fighters in prison. He spoke to The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location.

The police who were attacked were recruited from northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a one-time base for the Taliban, and were brought to Lahore for training, said Rehman.

Eight policemen also suffered bullet wounds, said Salman Saddiq, a government official.

One of the wounded, Shafqat Imran, said that eight to 10 attackers, their faces hidden behind hoods, stormed into the compound and started shooting randomly.

They shouted "God is great," then shot the policemen one by one, said Imran, speaking from a hospital bed.

The Pakistani military launched a massive offensive against the Taliban in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat Valley in 2009, and many militants were captured and imprisoned.

Police said they suspect the gunmen who attacked the housing compound were the same ones who killed seven soldiers and a policeman at an army camp Monday about 160 kilometres northwest of Lahore. The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for that attack as well.

The Pakistani Taliban have waged a blood insurgency against the government over the past few years, demanding it break ties with the United States and establish Islamic law throughout the country.

The militants have killed thousands of soldiers, police and civilians in attacks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mysterious disease strain continues to confound experts

Outbreak. Menacing form of hand, foot and mouth disease includes symptoms of high fever, brain swelling and paralysis

Tran Minh Giang has spent more than a third of his young life in a Vietnamese hospital, and it could be many months more before he can go home. All for a disease that in Asia is as common as chicken pox, and usually equally severe.

The 20-month-old boy was sickened by a particularly menacing form of hand, foot and mouth disease that has killed hundreds of young children across the region. They sometimes suffer high fever, brain swelling, paralysis and respiratory shutdown, even though they may have been infected by people with few or no symptoms.

When the strain hit Cambodia recently, doctors there had no idea what it was, and even now experts don't fully understand why it can be so devastating. Seven months after becoming sick, Giang still breathes using a ventilator connected to a hole in his tiny throat.

"It may take time, maybe years, before he can recover. When he sleeps, his lungs don't work," his father, Tran Nam Trung, said Thursday. "When he first got a high fever, I didn't think that he would be in a situation like this."

The enterovirus 71 strain, or EV-71, raised fears earlier this week when it was detected in some lab samples taken after 52 of 59 Cambodian children died suddenly from a mystery illness that sparked international alarm. The World Health Organization said via Twitter on Thursday that its investigation has found most cases were caused by the disease.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tran Nam Trung adjusts a tube of the respirator attached to his son Tran Minh Giang, who has been hospitalized for the past seven months at the National Hospital of Pediatrics in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Thursday. The 20-month-old boy fell victim to a form of hand, foot and mouth disease that has killed hundreds of young children across Asia recently. TRAN VAN MINH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cave tools give new hints to origins of first Americans

Three Western Stemmed Projectiles discovered in caves near Paisley, Ore.
JIM BARLOW/UNIVERSITY OF OREGON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stone tools and human DNA from ancient caves in the western U.S. offer new evidence of how some of the first Americans may have spread through the continent from Asia: on two different routes, as shown by two different ways of making the tips of spears.

Archaeologists said Thursday that they have dated broken obsidian spear points from Paisley Caves in Oregon to about 13,200 years ago — as old as much different stone tools from the Clovis culture found in the southeast and interior U.S. And radio-carbon dating of human DNA from coprolites — ancient desiccated human feces — shows people lived in the caves as early as 14,300 years ago.

The dates indicate that the Clovis style of chipping stone was not the mother of Stone Age technology, as others have theorized, and that the two styles were developed independently by different groups, said Dennis Jenkins, an archaeologist with the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History who led the excavations.

Jenkins said the findings suggest those groups may have taken separate routes after crossing the Ice Age land bridge from Asia. Those making western stemmed projectiles may have gone down the coast, while the Clovis people travelled through the interior U.S.

The findings by a team of scientists from the U.S., Britain and Denmark were reported online in the journal Science.

Not all experts are convinced. "Points are not people," said David Meltzer, professor of prehistory at Southern Methodist University. "Just because two ways of fashioning projectile points are different doesn't mean different populations — any more than different groups of people drive Hummers rather than Priuses."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unique features

- The Clovis culture is named for elegantly chipped stone points found at a site uncovered in 1929 near Clovis, N.M.
- The bases are distinctly concave where they were tied to the wooden shafts of spears or throwing darts for hunting

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Supreme Court reins in array of copyright fees

Rights levy. Top court rules on five different cases involving tariffs set by the Copyright Board

The Supreme Court of Canada has reined in the application of copyright fees levied on music, movies, video games and printed materials that Canadians download and copy in different ways. The top court examined five different cases at once that touched on tariffs set by the Copyright Board.

One of the biggest cases involved ministers of education and school boards from across the country versus Access Copyright. The two sides had butted heads at the Copyright Board over how much schools had to pay for the right to photocopy parts of books for students.

In a 5-4 decision, the Court found that the Copyright Board had incorrectly treated teachers differently when they photocopied materials for their students, "driving an artificial wedge into these unified purposes of instruction and research/private study."

The four other cases involved the layering on of fees for works based on the way they are transmitted to the consumer.

The court decided unanimously that there should be no copyright fees levied on cable companies or other digital providers when music is downloaded, but that artists should be compensated when it is streamed online.

The music downloading and streaming decision was linked to another one that dealt with software companies that sell their video games online. The court found in a 5-4 decision that those firms shouldn't pay royalties for the music that's featured in those video games every time a consumer downloads a product online.

Finally, cable and other Internet providers should not have to pay fees when music downloaders listen to previews of songs. The court found unanimously that those previews constituted research and therefore did not infringe the Copyright Act.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Owed

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The industry is now owed roughly three cents for every song downloaded in Canada between 1996-2006, said a lawyer for Rogers Communications, one of the digital service providers that went up against songwriters' group SOCAN.

Protesters lay it on the line

Protesters of Occupy Boise block a pathway in Sun Valley Village during Allen & Company's Sun Valley Conference last July in Sun Valley, Idaho. Since 1983, the investment firm Allen & Company has annually hosted the media and technology conference which is usually attended by powerful media executives, many of whom began arriving in Sun Valley on Thursday for this year's event.

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

Passwords leaked

Yahoo confirms security breach

Some 450,000 Yahoo users' email addresses and passwords have been leaked because of a security breach, the company confirmed Thursday, adding that just a small fraction of the stolen passwords were valid.

Yahoo said it is fixing the vulnerability that led to the disclosure, changing the passwords of affected Yahoo users, and notifying other companies whose users' accounts may have been compromised.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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Dow Jones: 12,573.27 (-31.26)

Banks. Earnings growth slows

Canada's biggest banks are taking a closer look at ways to reduce their expenses this summer as they prepare for slower earnings growth, according to a new report from Barclays.

Analyst John Aiken, who released a broad overview of the country's banking industry on Thursday, said that cost controls are near the top of the list for the industry as it grapples with tighter revenues.

The banks will look at ways to make their technical operations more efficient to save time and money, but if that doesn't create enough savings, jobs could be in jeopardy, he suggested.

Quoted

"If this environment continues, you may need to see some more dramatic cost-cutting measures put in place."

Barclays analyst John Aiken

Bank of Montreal chief executive Bill Downe highlighted the bank's continuing plans to lower costs across its operations as part of a long-term review that examines all of its businesses.

Some of those savings will be recognized through the closure of 24 of its U.S. BMO Harris bank branches in the U.S. Midwest, which is expected to trim $300 million US — though integration and restructuring costs are expected to be $600 million over the next few years.

National Bank and Royal Bank were also vocal about their cost-management plans.

The report said that TD Bank is likely to spend more attention on compensation plans that discourage risk-taking.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Labour. Most new jobs high-quality: CIBC report

A new look at job quality in Canada has come up with a surprising finding — the first six months of 2012 has seen a big improvement in the quality of work that has been created.

The CIBC says its employment quality index shot up 1.2 per cent in the first half of this year with the creation of 155,000 new jobs.

And most of them have been full-time and in high paying industries, the CIBC says.

Full-time employment rose by 1.1 per cent during the first half, 10 times faster than part-time work.

As well, the number of employees in high-paying sectors such as petroleum and coal manufacturing, oil and gas extraction, heavy and civil engineering construction and transportation equipment manufacturing rose by 1.6 per cent.

That is more than double the growth in lower-paying sectors.

The findings are a change from previous CIBC reports, which have tended to show that many jobs created since the 2008-09 recession were of the lower-paying service variety.

The CIBC is not optimistic the new trend will last, however.

It says with the global economy slowing and the real estate market cooling, high-paying work in the export sector and construction will be in short supply.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grain. Canadian farmers may benefit from U.S. drought

Drought conditions across large swaths of the United States and parts of Europe are raising concerns about a food-price shock later this year.

But while consumers brace to pay more for everything from corn flakes to bread and beef, many Canadian farmers hope to reap rewards from historically high grain prices.

Farmers south of the border will see just a fraction of the corn they expected in the spring when the ground was seeded, the U.S. Department of Agriculture warned earlier this week.

That prediction sent the price of corn through the roof — up by about 30 per cent compared with just three weeks ago. Almost all other grain commodity prices are higher as well.

But while some farmers are seeing bumper crops, others are facing drought conditions similar to those in the U.S.

Southern and Eastern Ontario are feeling it the most, said Agriculture and Agrifood Canada's Trevor Hadwen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Max. horsepower of 411 on F-150 6.2L V8 engine. Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2012 F-150 4X2 3.7L V6 SST: 12.7L/100km city and 8.9L/100km hwy based on Environment Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ◆◆Projected best in class fuel economy based on competitive data available at the time of testing using Ford drive-cycle tests (in accordance with the guidelines of the Society of Automotive Engineers' Standard J1321) of comparably equipped 2011 Ford vs. 2010 competitive models. Class is Full-Size Pickups over 8,500 lbs. GVWR. ◆Some mobile phones and some digital media players may not be fully compatible – check www.syncmyride.com for a listing of mobile phones, media players, and features supported. Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control, accident and injury. Ford recommends that drivers use caution when using mobile phones, even with voice commands. 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SUN IS SHINING, THIS SPECIES IS SWEET

THE LIST
Mike Benhaim
Metro

1 **The Blacker the Berry....** RIM CEO Thorsten Heins announced that the BlackBerry 10 launch will be delayed until the first quarter of 2013. Surely, this is a shrewd ploy to lure iPhone and Android producers into a false sense of success during peak purchasing season before unleashing their messianic unicorn upon an economically depressed public just teeming with buyer's remorse. That'll show 'em.

2 **1,000 words.** There is nothing funny about the wildfires that ravaged the western U.S., but pictures of the disaster captured by astronauts have given the International Space Station the distinction of "most expensive camera" in the universe.

3 **Reverse psychology.** U.S. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney was booed at the NAACP annual conference, and responded by saying, "If I don't stand for what they want, go vote for someone else." Nice strategy. I wonder if that could become his new campaign slogan.

4 **Katie's cruisin'.** Kudos to the recently divorced Holmes and Tom Cruise for achieving a settlement that was quicker and more mature than a Kim Kardashian marriage.

5 **Career legacy.** After eight Oscar nominations, four Golden Globes, a BAFTA and an Emmy, 80-year-old, Royal Academy-trained Peter O'Toole, announced his retirement from showbiz this week. His statement triggered an immediate outcry on Twitter: "OMG. That's the dude that played the voice of Anton in Ratatouille."

6 **Behind the mask.** Rock star Marilyn Manson responded to a rumour that he was dating Avril Lavigne by saying, "F–k that, she's Canadian," demonstrating once again the fine line between musical genius and complete ignoramus.

7 **Is this love?** Among Caribbean coral reefs, there exists a small species of "gnathiids" that will now be known as Gnathia marleyi. Paul Sikkel, marine biologist at Arkansas State University, says he named them after Bob Marley because they are "a natural wonder and as uniquely Caribbean." I am sure that Bob's family cannot fathom a greater honour than to have his name attached to a parasitic crustacean blood feeder that infests fish.

8 **Spaced out.** Astronomers using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope discovered a fifth moon orbiting Pluto. I have absolutely no idea what this means.

9 **Muppet music.** Can you tell me how to get to Sesame Street? Well, it seems that all you need is a massive hit like Canadian sensation Carly Rae Jepsen's Call Me Maybe. A snack-inspired version entitled Share It Maybe, performed by the legendary Cookie Monster has received thousands of YouTube hits this week, solidifying the 45-year-old muppet's place in the annals of popular music. Eat your heart out, Marilyn Manson.

10 **Calling all students.** If you're not backpacking through Europe, make up an excuse for whatever lame internship you've taken and hop on a flight to Jamaica in the next few days. It's Reggae Sumfest with R. Kelly, Lady Saw, Damian Marley, Trey Songz and more. You're young. You may not remember it, but you won't regret it. Irie.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

Gnathia marleyi, a tiny blood-sucking marine parasite, named after Jamaican reggae icon Bob Marley. ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alabama dogs play it cool

DAVE MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unleashed in the U.S.

Dog days of summer have just begun

An unidentified Great Dane inspects one of the many fountains at the new Alabama Dream Dog Park in Alabaster, Ala., Thursday.

The $500,000 US renovation creates a dog park with many unique features, which include custom-designed splash pads to keep dogs cool during hot Alabama summers, a fetch football field with fire hydrant goal posts, a hill that dogs and owners can climb together to enjoy the view, a doggie-wash station, and an adventure path with tunnels and agility hoops, among others.

The concept for the park came from former Shelby Humane Society executive director Jenny Wilson, who won the Beneful dream dog park contest.

"It's so much more than I could have ever imagined," Wilson told local media after taking her dogs Honey Belle and Baxter, through the park. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A dog runs through the fountains at the new Alabama Dream Dog Park. The park is complete with tables and water fountains — some tall enough for humans and some low enough for dogs.

Metropolitan Panel

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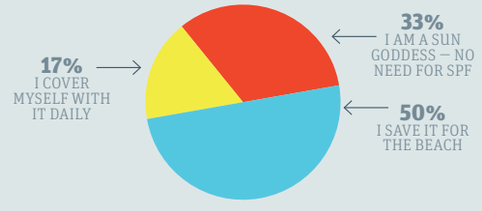

Twitter

@ThomasDrance: When did Duncan Keith legally change his name to Cam Janssen?

@ahlexisnicole: I've never been this excited to come back to vancouver in my life. #almosthome

@sashacrak: Actually sweating in Vancouver... and loving it!

@emily_magtoto: Meeting a stranger "in a black blazer" at a Starbucks in downtown Vancouver. Can you be more vague? #nohelp #awkward-situations

@KootenayBill: London Olympics Fake tickets & insufficient trained security people. Not measuring up to Vancouver Olympics. British tab's covering? #bcpoli

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Ice Age: Continental Drift suffers from a lazy script. HANDOUT

Critique

Children weigh in...

Forget what the crabby adults have to say, Ice Age: Continental Drift is aimed squarely at the kids. My sons — junior film critics Jack,5, and Elliot, 3, — joined Richard and I at a recent screening and had plenty to say about the experience. "I liked the 3D," said Jack, who usually tosses his glasses out of frustration mid-way through the film. As for little Elliot, at one point during Ice Age's relentless slapstick shtick, he laughed, shook his head, turned to me and in a voice loud enough that the entire theatre could hear him said "Dad, this is REALLY stupid!" Out of the mouths of babes….

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Ice Age pleases kids, freezes out adults

Tired and trite. Latest installment of this family franchise has the reviewers counting the years till these characters are extinct

Richard: Chris, I loved the Simpsons short that plays before Ice Age. It's a funny, gently paced thriller for kids with jokes that parents and film geeks will love. In fact, I wanted more of that and less of Ice Age. The main feature is nicely animated but is saddled with a story so by-the-book it feels like it would have been old hat even in the ice age. That's my take. You, however, had two of the world's youngest film critics with you. What did they think?

Chris: Indeed, I brought my sons Jack, 5, and Elliot,3, with me and as you'll read in the sidebar, they were more impressed than I. Now, I'd watch a movie about lawn darts if it was in 3D, so my eyeballs were pleased by all the razzle dazzle. But other than that ... Ice Age left me kinda numb. And here's my biggest problem with the picture and all of the Ice Age films ... Manny the Mammoth.... you can't see his mouth. He has NO expressions. The dullest animated hero in recent memory.

RC: Manny's not aided by a lazy script that feels like it was run through the Cliché-O-Matic. The theme — family and friends mean everything — has been done before and better. Couple that with jokes that come out of nowhere and feel tacked on, and you're left with a movie that is as lifeless as Manny's expression.

CA: Absolutely. It also doesn't help that dead-eyed Manny is voiced by Ray Romano, whose velvet tones remind me of a post-pubescent Kermit the Frog. The rest of the cast phones it in too (maybe literally!), obviously due in part to that sleepy script you've mentioned. The only one that registers is Game of Thrones' Peter Dinklage, who is monstrous and scuzzy as the pirate monkey Caption Gutt.

RC: Agreed. Dinklage is horrifying and scuzzy, in a good way. Also horrifying: they still have 20,000 years of history and sequel potential to go.

CA: Until they end up in space, right? But our gripes won't stop the kids from dragging their parents to it this weekend.

Synopsis

The movie begins the saber-toothed squirrel Scrat's efforts to protect his only possession — his prized acorn — lead to the great Continental Drift. As the earth shifts, woolly mammoth Manny (Ray Romano), Sid the sloth (John Leguizamo) and Diego the smilodon (Dennis Leary) get separated from their families. Their journey to reunite with their kin puts them directly into the path of ape pirate Captain Gutt (Peter Dinklage). Chris Alexander sits in for Mark Breslin.

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Chris: ●●○○○

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Shaq is back — on TV

Cable channel truTV is putting Shaquille O'Neal on its team with a new series. The channel said Wednesday that it's ordered 10 episodes of Upload with Shaquille O'Neal, the working title for a series with the basketball star. Actors and comics Gary Owen and Godfrey will join O'Neal on the show. The trio, along with a weekly guest, will share funny videos they find online and create their own, truTV said. Pranks and pop culture parodies also will be part of the mix. In a statement, O'Neal promised Upload will "deliver big laughs." A debut date for the series was not announced.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

DreamWorks plans to bring Shrek, Kung Fu Panda to theme park at stalled New Jersey mall

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Thriller

Beyond the Black Rainbow

Director. Panos Cosmatos

Stars. Michael Roger, Eva Allen

●●●●○

This insane west coast indie is the most auspicious Canadian feature debut of the year — and maybe in years. A meticulously art-directed homage to vintage, visionary '80s sci-fi, Beyond the Black Rainbow has a hallucinatory power that transcends its slender plot and meagre characterizations: it's simultaneously hypnotic and jarring, which is a very unusual combination.

ADAM NAYMAN

Comedy

Collaborator

Director. Martin Donovan

Stars. Martin Donovan, David Morse

●●●○○

A witty and well-paced thriller starring Martin Donovan as a playwright who gets haplessly holed up with a gun-toting neighbour (the excellent David Morse). Besides being a witty deconstruction of hostage-film clichés, Collaborator offers some interesting observations about the writing process itself — in the end it's a film about how art imitates life rather than the other way around.

ADAM NAYMAN

Drama

Beasts of the Southern Wild

Director. Benh Zeitlin

Stars. Quevenzhane Wallis, Dwight Henry

●●○○○

This critically praised indie is shot with a poet's eye but it's not poetry. Director Benh Zeitlin's debut slams together artful mysticism and calculated naturalism to create a dubious sort of hybrid. Six-year-old Quevenzhane Wallis holds the fort as a motherless sprite endangered by a storm but the other characters are blurry and the relentless reaching for "powerful" effects grows tiring by the end.

ADAM NAYMAN

Documentary

Neil Young Journeys

Director. Jonathan Demme

●●●○○

For their third collaboration, Neil Young and director Jonathan Demme (who made Stop Making Sense, one of the greatest concert films of all time with Talking Heads) find themselves in Young's hometown, Omemee, Ont., before heading out on a trip down memory lane (and the trans-Canada) on their way to Young's gig at Massey Hall last May. Interspersing shots from the road with selections from Young's two-night stand, Demme uses his intimate access to literally get up close and personal, using incredibly tight shots. As with so many things Neil Young related, it's unclear what the artist's intentions are. But with performances this stunning, it's worth the effort.

IAN GORMELY

Anne Hathaway. Actress happy her claws took the spotlight in film

Workouts. Catwoman actress says the focus was never on how sexy she looked, but rather on how she could fight

Anne Hathaway. HANDOUT

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

When Anne Hathaway signed on to play Catwoman for The Dark Knight Rises, she quickly found out that the bar for physical preparation had already been set pretty high by her new co-star, Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

"When I got the part, Chris (Christopher Nolan) had called me into his office and said, 'OK, so, there's going to be a lot of fighting, and when we did Inception, Joe got in really good shape. Joe went to the gym for months so when he did his fight sequence he did all of his own fighting. I really liked that," Hathaway remembers.

"And I went, 'Gotcha, I'm reading between the lines here.' And I just went to the gym and came out when we wrapped."

But unlike with other female superhero roles, Hathaway relished the feeling that the focus was never on how sexy she looked.

"I don't know what other actresses have gone through, (but) I feel like sometimes there's a mandate that comes to you, an ideal of how you have to look, and the way I was treated on this movie was, 'learn how to do what you need to do, and then however you look that's the way the character looks,'" she says.

"And I just felt, as a woman, very protected in that way."

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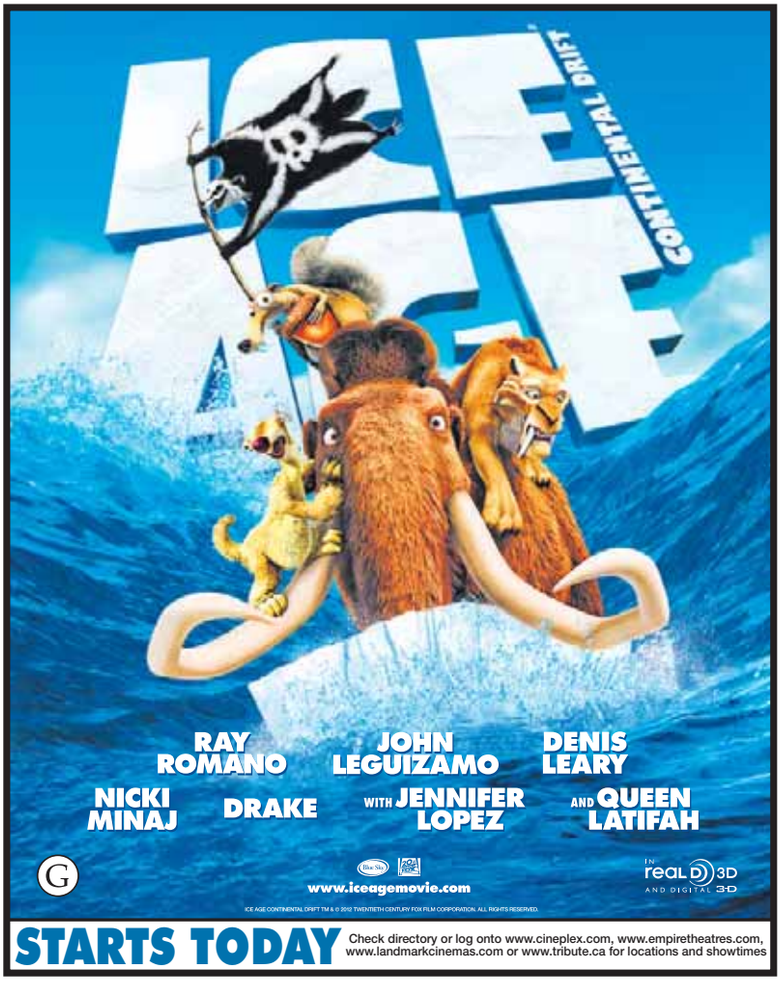
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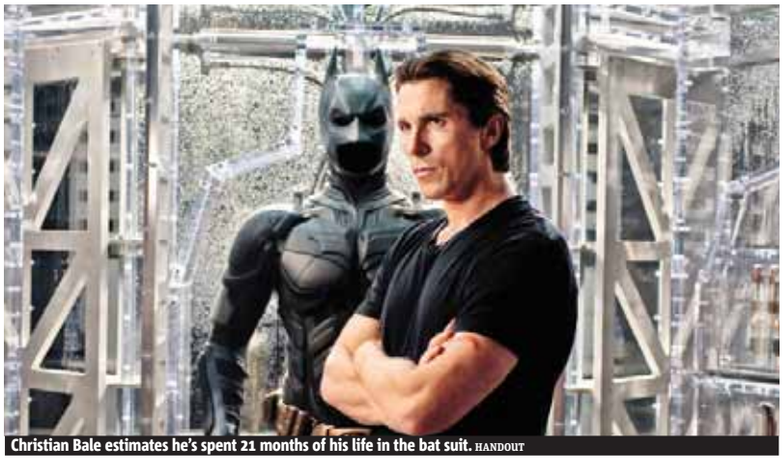
Christian Bale needs a moment alone

The Dark Knight Rises. Actor dishes about how he overcame his claustrophobia in the name of fighting crime and saving Gotham

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood



Christian Bale estimates he's spent 21 months of his life in the bat suit. HANDOUT

For Christian Bale, who's played Batman three times now for Christopher Nolan, creating a role that redefined both the legendary character and the British actor, the last time he put on the bat suit was a lot like the first time — and in each instance he needed a bit of alone time.

"The first time I ever put on the actual one myself I thought, 'Oh, Chris has to (re-do) the cast.' Because the claustrophobia was just unbelievable," Bale remembers.

"I stood there and I thought, 'I can't breathe, I can't think, this is too tight, this is squeezing my head, I'm gonna panic, I'm about to have a nervous breakdown, a panic attack right this second.' So I said, 'Can everyone just leave me alone for 20 minutes?'"

The break did the trick, as Bale estimates he's spent 21 months of his life under Batman's cowl — with some improvements over the years, like giving Bale the ability to take it off whenever he needed. And when the final day of shooting in the suit arrived — a scene that paired Bale with Anne Hathaway's Catwoman on a New York City rooftop — Bale found himself feeling a similar need for privacy, though for a different reason.

"I was wrapped, and I just went down and sat in a room and I realized, 'This is it. I'm not gonna be taking this cowl off again,'" Bale says.

"So again, I said, 'Can you please leave me alone for 20 minutes?' and sat with that moment. It was a very important moment for me. It's been a very important character, and the movies themselves have changed my life and changed my career. So I wanted to just appreciate that."

Speaking of time, Bale couldn't really tell you how long anything took to film in the massive superhero flick because he intentionally wasn't paying attention — in order to save his sanity. "You know, there's such long schedules on these movies. I don't like to think about time, otherwise I get depressed," he says.

Quoted

"I stood there and I thought, 'I can't breathe, I can't think, this is too tight, this is squeezing my head, I'm about to have a nervous breakdown..."

Christian Bale on donning the bat suit for the first time

On the web

Who was the best Batman ever, and what villains are worthy of our fear – or scorn? Metro delved deep into the cavernous world of the caped crusader to mark the release of The Dark Knight Rises, in theatres next week. Scan this code or visit metronews.ca/features/the-dark-knight-rises.

Commissioner Gordon. Gary Oldman might know what's going on in Gotham, but the script's ending was a big secret

Gary Oldman, right, says he read Nolan's script with intrigue. HANDOUT

Gary Oldman has been a part of Christopher Nolan's Batman franchise since the beginning, playing one of the Caped Crusader's few allies, Commissioner Gordon. But that doesn't mean Oldman got the word about the Dark Knight Rises before some of his less-seasoned co-stars.

When you read the script to another installment in a franchise, is there any sense of fear about what might happen to your character?

A sense of fear? No, I think because it's Chris, you read it with a sense of intrigue. You think, What am I going to be up to? What's going to happen to me? I mean, he called me with this one and he said, "Obviously there's a level of paranoia around it because we don't want people getting ahold of the script, understandably." I went and read almost to the end. He kept the end in his pocket, and then you would go and sit with him and he would tell you the ending, which I thought was rather smart.

That must be an experience, having Christopher Nolan just tell it to you.

Yeah, you go in for a story. It's storytelling, literally (laughs).

Nolan has a tendency to reuse actors in his movies, so were you expecting a call for Inception?

I got a call, actually. He said, "It's this part, and it's not a huge role." I think it played in different locations around the world, and it was a big commitment. It just didn't work in with my life at the time and my kids and all of that, but he did call. We'll see what happens down the line, but there seems to be a sort of Chris Nolan Repertory Company, people that he works with. He's very loyal to a lot of the crew that he works with again and again and again. I think he's superstitious, too. He has Michael Caine in his movies, that's his lucky charm.

NED EHRBAR

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Nolan is ready for a vacation

Trilogy wrap. With a successful Batman series behind him, director doesn't know what's next — and he's OK with that

Christopher Nolan. HANDOUT

After the second film in your superhero franchise breaks box office records and goes on to earn more than $1 billion worldwide, you'd think the studio behind the project would be a bit upset to hear you planned to make the third installment the last one. But Christopher Nolan insists Warner Bros. was happy he was making the Dark Knight Rises at all.

"The point at which I was saying to the studio it would be a trilogy was the point I was telling them, 'Yes, I will do a third one.' They were thrilled," says the director. "Obviously I'm sure they'd love us to keep doing this forever, but I think they completely understood that my attraction to coming back for a third time was in finishing our story, so that we've told one big story with three major parts to it. And that really is the reason we're here and the reason we've done it. So it was kind of part and parcel of what we were doing."

The production of Nolan's followup to the Dark Knight became one of the most closely watched film shoots in recent memory, with fans flocking to locations in Pittsburgh, New York City and elsewhere to glean whatever details they could — leading to grainy cell phone videos of fight scenes spreading across the Internet, much to Nolan's chagrin. "The world we live in now is if you're going to do day exterior scenes in a city, then everybody's going to get cellphone photos of it," Nolan acknowledges.

With his Batman trilogy behind him, the big question is what will Nolan do next. But unfortunately he's not very forthcoming on that front. "I have no idea what's next. I'm going on holiday and just relaxing," Nolan says with a grin.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JULY 13 TO THURS., JULY 19. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

OMNIMAX Theatre Science World 1455 Quebec St.

Arabia (STC) Fri-Thu 3
Hubble (STC) Fri-Thu 1
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2-4

Denman Cinemas 1779 Comox

The Cabin in the Woods (18A) Fri-Wed 9:10
Hysteria (14A) Fri-Wed 2
Marley (PG) Fri-Wed 4:10
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Sat-Sun 12
Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (PG) Fri-Wed 7
Your Sister's Sister (14A) Fri 12 Mon-Wed 12

Dunbar Theatre 4555 Dunbar Street

The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-7-9:50 Mon-Wed 3:45-7-9:50 Thu 3:45-7
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Thu 11:59

Fifth Avenue Cinemas 2110 Burrard Street

Beasts of the Southern Wild (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:25-9:30
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri-Tue 1-4-7-9:25 Wed 1-4-9:25 Thu 1-4-7-9:25
The Intouchables (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-6:50-9:15
Moonrise Kingdom (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-7:05-9:05
Shut Up and Play the Hits (STC) Wed 7
To Rome With Love (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:35

Granville 855 Granville St.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:25-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20
Collaborator (14A) Fri 6:55-9:20 Sat-Sun 4:10-6:55-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:05
Cosmopolis (14A) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 3:55-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:10
The Dictator (14A) Fri 6:40-9:05 Sat-Sun 4:15-6:40-9:05 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:25
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Sun 4-8 Mon-Thu 8
People Like Us (PG) Fri 6:35-9:15 Sat-Sun 4:05-6:35-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:15
Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (PG) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:20-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:45-8

Pacific Cinémathèque 1131 Howe Street

Alfred Hitchcock Film Festival (STC) Sat 8:05
Batman: Mask of the Phantasm (STC) Sun 1
Beware of a Holy Whore (STC) Fri 8:15 Sun 6:30
The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant (STC) Sun 8:30
Dim Cinema (STC) Mon
Effi Briest (STC) Thu 6:30
Elling (STC) Wed 7:30
Fastwurms: Mash/Up (STC) Mon 7:30
Frames of Mind (STC) Wed
The Merchant of Four Seasons (STC) Fri 6:30 Thu 9:05
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
Sabotage (STC) Sat 6:30

Park Theatre 3440 Cambie Street

The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri 4-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:45 Mon-Wed 4-7-9:45 Thu 4-7
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Thu 12

Ridge Theatre 3131 Arbutus Street

Ted (14A) Fri 4-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:30

Rio on Broadway 1660 E. Broadway

Bones Brigade: An Autobiography (STC) Sun 7-9:30
Burlesque Assassins Red Carpet Premiere (STC) Wed 7:30
The Fifth Element (STC) Fri 11
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat Mon-Tue
Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407
The African Queen (G) Wed 7
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri 12:40-3:40-6:50-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Mon 12:30-3:25-6:50-10 Tue 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Wed 12:40-3:40-6:50-10 Thu 12:30-3:25-6:50-10
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30-11 Fri-Wed 1:30-4:40-7:50-11 Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50
Brave (G) Fri 2:15-4:50 Sat-Sun 12-2:25-4:50 Mon 2:15-4:50 Tue 12-2:15-4:50 Wed-Thu 2:15-4:50
Brave 3D (G) Fri 12:30-2:50-5:15-7:45-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon 12:30-2:50-5:15-7:45-10:15 Tue 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Wed 12:30-2:50-5:15-7:45-10:15 Thu 12:30-2:50-7:15-9:50
The Dark Knight Marathon (STC) Thu 6:40
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Thu 12:02 Thu 12:01
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40 Wed 12:30 Thu 12:40
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:50-7:10-10:20 Mon 3:45-10:45 Tue 3:50-7:10-10:20 Wed 3:35-10:20 Thu 3:50
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri 2:30-5-7:35-10:10 Sat 12-2:30-5-7:35-10:10 Sun 2:40-5-7:35-10:10 Mon 2:30-5-7:35-10:10 Tue 12-2:30-5-7:35-10:10 Wed 1:45-4:15-10:10 Thu 1:30-4
Prometheus 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 2:10-5:10-8-11 Sun 2:25-5:10-8-11 Mon-Wed 2:10-5:10-8-11 Thu 2:10-5:10-8
Ted (14A) Fri 12:35-3-5:35-7:30-8:10-10:05-10:45 Sat-Sun 12:20-3-5:35-7:30-8:10-10:05-10:45 Mon 12:35-3-5:35-7:30-8:10-10:05-10:45 Tue 12:20-3-5:35-7:30-8:10-10:05-10:45 Wed 12:35-3-5:35-7:30-8:10-10:05-10:45 Thu 12:35-3-5:35-7:30-8:10-10:05

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre, 1181 Seymour Street

Beyond the Black Rainbow (STC) Fri-Sun 8:50 Tue-Wed 8:50
No Films Showing Today (STC) Thu
Peace Out (STC) Fri-Wed 6:45
Upside Down: The Creation Records Story (STC) Mon 8:30

Vancouver Aquarium 4D Experience Theatre 845 Avison Way

Pole To Pole 4-D Experience (STC) Fri-Thu 10:15-10:45-11:15-11:45-12:15-12:45-1:15-1:45-2:15-2:45-3:15-3:45-4:15-4:45-5:15-5:45-6:15

North Shore Esplanade 6 200 West Esplanade

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri-Wed 1:10-3:50-6:50 Thu 12:35-3:15
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 12:50
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 3:30-6:45-9:20
The Dark Knight Marathon (STC) Thu 6:15
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Thu 12
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7:10-9:45
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Wed 12:35-3:15-7-9:40 Thu 12:45-3:45-7-9:40
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-4-8
People Like Us (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:30-9:10
Prometheus (14A) Fri-Wed 9:35

Park & Tilford 333 Brooksbank Ave.

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:50-10
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7-10:10
Ted (14A) Fri-Sat 12-2:35-5:10-7:40-10:25 Sun-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:40-10:25
To Rome With Love (PG) Fri-Sat 12:10-2:50-5:30-8-10:30 Sun-Wed 2:50-5:30-8-10:30 Thu 5:30-8-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

SilverCity Riverport 14211 Entertainment Way

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri-Thu 10:50
The African Queen (G) Wed 7
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Wed 12-12:30-3:10-3:40-6:20-6:50-9:30-10 Thu 12:30-1-3:40-4-6:50-7:30-10-10:30
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 1:30-4:40-7:50-11 Thu 12-3-6-8:55
The Amazing Spider-Man: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Wed 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:30-10:25 Mon-Wed 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:25 Thu 1:30-4:30-10:25
Big (STC) Sat 11
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:35-5:10
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Wed 12:30-3-5:25-7:50-10:15 Thu 12:30-3-7:50-10:15
The Dark Knight Marathon (STC) Thu 6:40
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Thu 12:01 Thu 12:01
The Dark Knight Rises: The IMAX Experience (PG) Thu 12:01
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 12-12:50-2:25-3:10-4:50-5:35-7:15-8-9:40
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:10-6:40-9
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:45
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Thu 3:10-5:35-7:55-10:25
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 4:15-7:25-10:45
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Tue 8:10-10:50 Wed 10:50
People Like Us (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40
Prometheus (14A) Thu 7:55-10:45
Prometheus 3D (14A) Fri-Wed 2:05-5-7:55-10:45 Thu 2:05-5
Savages (18A) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed 12:55-4-8-10:30 Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-11
To Rome With Love (PG) Fri-Wed 12:10-2:50-5:35-8:10-10:50 Thu 5:35-8:10-10:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
WWE Money In The Bank 2012 (STC) Sun 5
Yaraan Naal Baharaan 2 (STC) Fri-Wed 1:35-4:30-7:40-10:40 Thu 1-4-7:40-10:40

Dolphin Cinemas 4555 E. Hastings St.

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:45-9:30
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:40-4:50-7-9:10

SilverCity Metropolis 4700 Kingsway Ave.

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:50-7-10:15 Sun 3:50-7 Mon-Wed 12:45-3:50-7-10:15 Thu 12-3-6-9 Sun 12:45-10:15
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 1:30-4:40-7:50-11 Thu 10 Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30
Big (STC) Sat 11
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 12:10
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:45-5:30-8:05-10:35
The Dark Knight Marathon (STC) Thu 6:40
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Thu 12:01 Thu 12:01
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Wed 12:20-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05 Thu 12:20-2:50-5:15-7:40-9:30
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:15
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Sat 2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55 Sun 10 Mon-Wed 2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55 Thu 2:40
Magic Mike (14A) Fri 12:05-2:35-5:10-8-10:40 Sat 11-2:35-5:10-8-10:40 Sun-Thu 12:05-2:35-5:10-8-10:40
Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:30
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:55
WWE Money In The Bank 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Station Square 220-6200 McKay Ave.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri-Thu 9:20
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:50
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri 3:35-6:35 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:35-6:35 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:35
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:25
People Like Us (PG) Fri 3:55-6:55-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:55-6:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:55-9:40
Prometheus (14A) Fri 4-7:05-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:05-4-7:05-9:55 Mon-Thu 4-7:05-9:55
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri 4-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:45

SilverCity Coquitlam 170 Schoolhouse Street

The African Queen (G) Wed 7
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:40-4:10-6:50-7:20-10-10:30
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:15-7:30-10:50 Fri-Wed 1:30-4:40-7:50-11 Thu 7:50-10:55 Thu 1:30-4:30 Big (STC) Sat 11
Brave (G) Fri 2-4:30 Sat 11:25-2-4:30 Sun-Wed 2-4:30 Thu 1-3:30
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
The Dark Knight Marathon (STC) Thu 6:40
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Thu 12:01 Thu 12:01 Thu 12:01
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:35-5:05-7:30-10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Wed 12:15 Thu 12
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Wed 2:40-5:05-7:35-9:55 Thu 2:20-4:40-7:30-9:45
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Wed 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Thu 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:20
Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:15-10
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Tue 7:25-10:40 Wed 10:40
People Like Us (PG) Fri-Thu 10:35
Prometheus (14A) Fri-Sat 2:05-5-7:55-10:55 Sun 2:05-10:55 Mon-Thu 2:05-5-7:55-10:55
Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Fri-Thu 12:35-3:45-7-10:15
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:40
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:55 Fri-Wed 2:20-5:05-7:50-10:35 Thu 12:20-3:30-6:30-9:15
To Rome With Love (PG) Fri-Tue 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Wed 5:30-8:10-10:50 Thu 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50
Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:45-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
WWE Money In The Bank 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Clova 5732-176th St., Surrey

Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:45-7

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Hollywood 3 Cinema 7125-138th Street, Surrey

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri-Thu 4:15
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Thu 2:30
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Thu 9:20
Marvel's Avengers Assemble (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-6:30-9:25
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 3:40
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30-6:45
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Fri-Thu 12:30
Rock of Ages (PG) Fri-Thu 9
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Thu 6:45
That's My Boy (14A) Fri-Thu 1

Strawberry Hill Grande 12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Wed 4:10-7:20-10:30 Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, Wed 1
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50-11
Big (STC) Sat 11
Bol Bachchan (STC) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:45-7:10-10:35
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 12:30
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Sat 3-5:30-8-10:25 Sun 3-5:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 3-5:30-8-10:25
Cocktail (STC) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:40-6:55-10:05
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 12:25
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05
Jatt & Juliet (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:05-6:40-10
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:55-5:20-7:40-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Sat 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Sun 1:15-8-10:40 Mon-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40
Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:55
WWE Money In The Bank 2012 (STC) Sun 5
Yaraan Naal Baharaan 2 (STC) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7-9:55

Studio 12 Guildford 15051-101st Ave, Surrey

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) , Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7-10:10
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) , Fri-Thu 1-3:20-6:30-9:40
Bol Bachchan (STC) , Fri-Tue 1:10-4:25-7:40 , Wed 1:10 , Thu 1:10-4:25-7:40
Brave (G) , Fri-Wed 1:15-3:40-6:50-9:30 , Thu 1:15-3:40
Cocktail (STC) Sub-Titled, , Fri-Thu 12:20-3:35-7:30
The Dark Knight Marathon (STC) , , Thu 6:15
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) , , SR Dolby Digital Thu 12-12:30
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) , , Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-6:40-9:10
Jatt & Juliet (PG) , Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:50
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) , Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:15-9
Magic Mike (14A) , Fri-Thu 12:40-3:30-6:20-9:20
Savages (18A) , Fri-Thu 12:25-4-7:15-10:15
Ted (14A) , Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:10-10

Rialto 1732-152nd Street, White Rock

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30
Savages (18A) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25

Criterion 4 White Rock

2381 King George Highway

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 2-7-9:35
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 2:10-7:10-9:10
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 2:20-7:20-9:15
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 2:30-7:30-9:40
Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747
The African Queen (G) Wed 7
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:10-6:20-9:30
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Thu 6:50-10 Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50-11 Thu 12:30-3:40
The Amazing Spider-Man: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Wed 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
Big (STC) Sat 11
Brave (G) Fri-Wed 12:05-2:35-5 Thu 12-2:30
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8:10-10:35
The Dark Knight Marathon (STC) Thu 6:40
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Thu 12:01 Thu 12:01
The Dark Knight Rises: The IMAX Experience (PG) Thu 12:01
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri 12-1:45-2:25-4:10-4:50-6:40-7:15-9-9:40 Sat 11:10-12-1:45-2:25-4:10-4:50-6:40-7:15-9-9:40 Sun-Wed 12-1:45-2:25-4:10-4:50-6:40-7:15-9-9:40 Thu 12-1:45-2:25-4:10-4:50-6:40-7:30-9-10
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:10-5:35-8-10:25
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:15
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Wed 2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55 Thu 3:35-7-9:20
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:45-7-10:20
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Sat 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:15-10:50 Sun 12-2:30-8:30-11 Mon-Thu 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:15-10:50
People Like Us (PG) Fri-Wed 7:45-10:35
Prometheus (14A) Fri 2:05-5-7:55-10:50 Sat 11:05-2:05-5-7:55-10:50 Sun-Thu 2:05-5-7:55-10:50
Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:35
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Tue 1:45-4:50-7:50-10:55 Wed 12:15-3:20-9:45 Thu 1:45-4:50-7:50-10:55
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:05-5:40-8:20-11
To Rome With Love (PG) Fri-Tue 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Wed 12:10-5:30-8:10-10:50 Thu 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
WWE Money In The Bank 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Twilight Drive-In 260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Wed 11:15
The Dark Knight (14A) Thu 9:15
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Thu 11:59
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Wed 9:30
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Sat 1:45

Cristine Prosperi as Imogen Moreno in Degrassi. CAITLIN CRONENBERG

The Degrassi kids are back for 12th season

New episodes. Metro talks to actress Cristine Prosperi about why the TV show continues to rake in viewers

IAN GORMELY
scene@metronews.ca

While the rest of the television world is taking the summer off, the cast of Degrassi are amping up for the premiere of their 12th season, which continues to chronicle the exploits of the famed Eastside school's students.

"I feel like every Canadian teenager has watched Degrassi," says Cristine Prosperi, who plays senior Imogen Moreno on the long-running series. "It's a huge thing for everyone."

Over the years, Degrassi has enjoyed incredible success, especially here in Canada. Its current incarnation has proved particularly tenacious thanks to a steady flow of new characters that cycle in as old ones graduate.

A long-time fan of the program, Prosperi chalks up the series' longevity to its continued commitment to portraying teens as real people instead of the glossy Hollywood-version showcased on so many teen dramas. "Nothing is fake, nothing is over the top," she says. "Teens relate to us so much because it's not glamorous at Degrassi."

Prosperi grew up in Newmarket and has worked in television since her debut in a Unico pasta commercial at age three. She originally auditioned for the role of Katie Matlin, but was brought back to read for Imogen instead.

Still in Grade 12 when she was cast, she found out after her phone started vibrating in class and she retreated to the bathroom to answer the call from her agent. "I was crying the whole day," she says.

The summer season was shot quickly in order to accommodate myriad plot lines. Multiple new episodes will air throughout the week.

And while the series' July 16 premiere focuses on the Drew-Bianca-Katie love triangle, relegating Imogen to the background, Prosperi promises we'll learn more about Imogen's home life and "why she is the way she is" over the summer's 20-episode run.

Premiere

To coincide with the premiere of Degrassi's 12th season, the nation's music station is holding a free screening event at its 299 Queen St. West headquarters, including special episodes of New.Music.Live. and Today's Top 10.

- The event will feature members of the cast who will be signing autographs and taking part in a Q&A session prior to the season premiere.
- To be part of the New. Music.Live. audience or for more info, check out muchmusic.com.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

More stripping may be in the cards for Channing

Channing Tatum isn't surprised his semi-autobiographical male stripper movie, Magic Mike, is a success — and he's already got a sequel planned.

"We're working on the concept now," he tells the U.K. edition of Glamour magazine. "We want to flip the script and make it bigger."

Meanwhile, Tatum is more than happy to throw his hat into the ring when it comes to who should star in the film adaptation of the steamy hit novel Fifty Shades of Grey — under the condition that he co-star with real-life wife Jenna Dewan. "I'd only be allowed if my wife was Ana. She's read the books so I don't think she'd be impressed if she couldn't be Ana," he tells the magazine.

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise

It's all about saving face, says attorney

Tom Cruise apparently knew Katie Holmes would win their divorce battle, which is why the pair reached a settlement so quickly, divorce attorney Debra Opri insists to Hollyscoop.

"Katie's main concern was getting sole custody of Suri, and Tom wanted to protect his public image and keep the divorce out of the media as much as possible," Opri says.

"In most celebrity divorces, image is the upmost concern because that is how they make their (income). In the end, they all want the same thing: to save their public image."

Trouble on set for Bullock's movie

Sandra Bullock's new cop film, The Heat, is seeing its share of action this week while filming in Boston.

First, a bus collided with a truck from the production, resulting in injuries for 15 people, according to Yahoo's Movie Talk.

And the next day, a fight broke out one block from where the film is shooting, resulting in a fatal stabbing in which one man was killed and two men were injured.

The Word

More trouble in the Moore household?

MONICA WEYMOUTH
scene@metronews.ca

After her split from Ashton Kutcher and subsequent rehab trip, Demi Moore has been spotted out and about looking pretty great — or at least alive enough. But it seems not all is well with her family just yet.

"There's a wedge between Demi and her girls," a source tells Us Weekly of her daughters, Rumer, Scout and Tallulah.

According to the source, Demi didn't speak to them at Tallulah's high school graduation last month.

"Demi is beside herself over the situation," a family friend tells RadarOnline.com. "She hasn't spoken to Scout, Rumer or Tallulah for weeks now, they won't return any of her calls, emails or texts."

Rich people, take note: If your teenagers don't need your car for the weekend, it's quite possible that you will never hear from them again.

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3 LIFE

Liquid Assets

Polish vodka shows its sweet side

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.cca

I like ice cream as much as the next guy, but I never thought there would ever be a reason to want to make my own — until I read Ice Cream Happy Hour ($16.95, Ulysses Press) by Valerie Lum and Jenise Addison.

Though you'll need an ice cream maker to create these ladies' boozy treats from scratch, their simple, spirit-laden recipes are amazingly easy to create and open the door to dozens of cocktail-inspired desserts that scream summer.

If that all sounds too much like a Food Network series gone wrong, you can cheat your way to spiked frozen treats through a gazillion Internet recipes that mix pre-made ice cream with every imaginable combination of liqueurs and hard liquor.

Vodka is the foundation of many a creamy creation and one with a bit of guts adds to the glory of any icy, adult-oriented endeavor.

The Poles know their way around a neutral spirit and, apparently, so does actor Bruce Willis. Mr. Die Hard is a part owner of Sobieski ($22.62 - $27.98), Poland's top ranked, rye-based vodka that combined a muscular expression of flavour with a well-rounded, grainy personality.

Did I hear the ice cream truck?

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

This recipe makes 12 sandwiches. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A whole new way to scream for ice cream

Summertime Ice Cream Sandwiches.
Add a bit more pizzazz to your fave frozen treats with cookies and sweet toppings

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or lightly coat with cooking spray.

2. Place 1/4 cup of the sugar in a shallow dish or pie pan. In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the remaining 1 cup of sugar, the butter, vanilla, almond extract and rum until light and fluffy. Add the egg, scraping down the sides of the bowl and mixing until well incorporated. Stir in the flour, salt and baking powder.

3. Scoop the dough by the tablespoonful and form into balls. One at a time, place each ball of dough in the sugar in the shallow dish. Roll around until all sides are coated. Arrange the sugared balls of dough on the prepared baking sheet, leaving 2 inches between them to allow for spreading. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until the edges are just beginning to brown. Allow to cool on the baking sheet.

4. While the cookies cool, remove the sherbet or sorbet and ice cream from the freezer. One at a time, microwave for 10 to 15 seconds, or just long enough to soften. In a large bowl, combine the two flavours and use a rubber spatula to swirl them together. Do not overmix or completely blend them.

5. Overturn 1 cookie and place about 1 tablespoon of the ice cream mixture on it. Top with a second cookie and gently squeeze together. Return to the freezer until firm. If not serving right away, wrap tightly in plastic wrap and store in the freezer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cups sugar, divided
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp almond extract
- 2 tbsp spiced rum or brandy
- 1 egg
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 3/4 cup orange sherbet, raspberry sorbet or other fruity frozen dessert
- 3/4 cup vanilla ice cream

Celebrate

A day just for frozen goodness

If you're looking for more of a reason to enjoy everyone's favourite summer treat, consider that this Sunday is National Ice Cream Day. Invented in 1984 by American president Ronald Reagan (who actually declared all of July National Ice Cream Month and the third Sunday in July National Ice Cream Day), the festivities have spread to Canada. Reagan recognized the popularity of ice cream in the United States (90 per cent of the nation's population consumes ice cream) and stated that these two events should be observed with "appropriate ceremonies and activities." Meanwhile, according to data from the NPD Group, Canadians ate more than 121 million servings of ice cream at quick-service restaurants in 2011.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Only for serious sundae and chocolate lovers

This recipe makes one serving. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Whether homemade or store-bought, chocolate brownies are a favourite of many children and adults. Adding vanilla or mint ice cream will make a sundae that is sure to please everyone.

This is a fun dessert to make for family gatherings or for kids' parties.

The recipe serves one but to make more sundaes, simply multiply the ingredients by the number of servings that are needed.

1. Place bottom half of brownie on a dessert plate. Top with 1/2 scoop of the ice cream.

2. Top with remaining brownie half. Place remaining ice cream on top and drizzle with candy-shell chocolate topping. When topping is firm, drizzle with sundae syrup.

3. Garnish plate and dessert with toasted coconut and sprinkles, if using.

SMUCKER'S FOODS OF CANADA/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 1 brownie (5 by 7.5 cm/2 by 3 inches), split horizontally
- 1 scoop (125 ml/1/2 cup) vanilla or mint ice cream, softened, divided
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) candy-shell chocolate topping
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chocolate sundae syrup
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) toasted coconut (optional)
- Sprinkles (optional)

On the Web

Kids love ice cream even more with these tips for a frozen treat bar

Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events courtesy of Notable.ca.
To get even more info on these Notable happenings make sure to check out notable.ca/nationwide/metro/July13

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

house wine

Quaff this

Step aboard The Wine Yacht for Unearth Australia, an evening of wine-tasting on Friday hosted by House Wine and Australian industry leaders behind notable wineries Fowles Wine, Taltarni and Tahbilk and discover another side to 'cool' wines from Down Under. Located at The Wine Yacht in Vancouver's Coal Harbour. housewine.ca.

Whistler Longboard Festival

This weekend-long festival offers incentive to get out of town and up to picturesque Blackcomb Mountain in Whistler from July 12 to 15. Take in the sun and competition at the Sliding Centre's 1.6-km road as more than 160 international competitors skate their way down the mountain toward a $5,000 prize. whistlerlongboard.com. 4010 Whistler Way.

Canada Cup of Beer Festival

Vancouver's seventh annual largest beer festival takes place this Saturday at Burnaby's Swangard Stadium. Festival-goers can take in plenty of live entertainment at this outdoor event while tasting their way around the world, sampling beer from more than 100 different brewers. Partial proceeds support the Vancouver Theatresports League. canadacupofbeer.com. 3883 Imperial St.

35th VANCOUVER FOLK MUSIC festival
July 13 14 15 2012

35th Annual Vancouver Folk Festival

Head to Jericho Beach Park for a weekend's worth of music and join more than 35,000 others at this always-popular outdoor event. With daily workshops, food vendors, an Artisan marketplace and seven stages featuring sounds from more than 100 different talents, you're definitely in for a good time. thefestival.bc.ca.

VANCOUVER PRIDE SOCIETY

Kick-off Pride celebrations at the PNE's Gay Day at Playland

With the Annual Vancouver Pride celebrations set to start, things get geared up Saturday at Playland where park-goers are encouraged to sport their bright colours in support of Pride, anti-bullying and more. 2901 East Hastings St. vancouverpride.ca.

Purolator TackleHunger

Coming up: 10th Annual Purolator Tackle Hunger Food Drive

The battle is almost on for this worthy benefit assisting both the Surrey Food Bank Society and Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society. Set to take place at the BC Lion's home game against the Edmonton Eskimo's Friday, July 20, game-goers can donate non-perishable food items at the gates and score their own digital keepsake: a photo with the Grey Cup. 777 Pacific Blvd. cfl.ca/purolator

Sausage with Polenta. Barbecue taste & colour

1. In a wide, cast-iron frying pan, heat olive oil over high heat. Add sausages, peppers and onions and sauté for 2 minutes.

2. Add garlic and continue to cook, stirring, for 5 or 6 minutes or until lightly coloured. Stir in tomatoes and add rosemary. Simmer for 20 to 30 minutes on medium heat until sauce is reduced and sausages are plump. Add basil at the end just before serving.

3. Meanwhile, in a medium saucepot, bring salted water to a boil. Add polenta and cook over medium heat, stirring, for 1 to 2 minutes, reduce heat to low to keep warm. Add cheese and butter; stir until smooth.

4. To serve, spoon polenta onto plates; top each serving with a sausage and spoon pepper and tomato sauce over top. Serve with extra cheese, if desired.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/FLETCHER'S PICANTE PASSION SMOKED SAUSAGES

Ingredients

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 6 smoked sausages
- 3 large mixed sweet peppers, seeded and cut into thin strips
- 2 large sweet onions, halved and thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, smashed
- 500 ml (2 cups) chopped canned tomatoes
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary
- 1/2 bunch fresh basil
- 750 ml (3 cups) chicken stock
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) quick-cook polenta
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) freshly grated Parmesan or Grana Padano, plus extra for serving
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) unsalted butter

Pulled pork slims down by getting wrapped up in lettuce

Pulled pork is a treat often reserved as an occasional indulgence. Which probably is good, since it tends to be made with some of the fattier pieces of pork, which then are smothered with a sugary sauce and piled on a roll.

For a healthier version, start by changing the cut of meat by using pork tenderloin. It is a very lean cut of meat that can be boiled until tender in a flavourful broth.

For the sauce, do something a little out of the ordinary by going with a tangy vinaigrette-style sauce. This allows it to be served warm or cold with some crunchy raw vegetables to add some colour and texture.

Finally, the bun. Skip that entirely. After all, the pork is the star.

1. In pot, combine pork, stock, 1/2 teaspoon of salt, 1/2 teaspoon of pepper, the garlic, bay leaves, cloves and pickling spice. Bring the mixture to a simmer and cook until the pork is fork tender, about 1 hour.

2. Remove pork from liquid and allow to cool until easily handled. Using 2 forks or your fingers, shred or pull apart the pork into strands. Set aside.

3. In bowl, whisk vinegar, olive oil, hot sauce, sour cream and orange zest. Stir in bell pepper, celery, carrot and pork. Season with salt and pepper.

4. To serve, offer bowls of the pulled pork with lettuce leaves. Diners can spoon some of the pork into each leaf and eat as a wrap.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lbs pork tenderloin, cut into 2-inch chunks
- 1 quart no-salt chicken or vegetable stock
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 4 cloves garlic, smashed
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 tsp whole cloves
- 1 tbsp pickling spice blend
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar or sherry vinegar
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Splash of hot sauce
- 1/4 cup low-fat sour cream
- 1 tsp finely grated orange zest
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and finely chopped
- 1 stalk celery, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, grated
- Bibb lettuce, to serve

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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4 SPORTS

MLB

"In trying to convey my feelings about a few issues that I am passionate about, I made the mistake of naming some specific players. This was inappropriate and unfair to those players, some of which are very close friends of mine."

Reggie Jackson says he messed up by disparaging Alex Rodriguez, Gary Carter and other big names in baseball and has been reaching out to make apologies. Jackson, a Hall of Famer, had told Sports Illustrated that Rodriguez's statistics were tainted by the Yankees star's admitted use of performance-enhancing drugs. Jackson also said he didn't see Carter, Kirby Puckett, Phil Niekro, Don Sutton and Jim Rice as Hall members. Jackson is a special adviser with the New York Yankees. The Yankees had told Jackson to stay away from the clubhouse and team events following his pointed remarks to the magazine, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press earlier this week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

After signing Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis this week, Pat Riley has significantly improved the chances of his Miami Heat to repeat as champions. "Pat done it again," said Heat superstar LeBron James of Riley's ability to lure stars to South Beach at discount prices. Scan the code for the story.

Lavoie caps Als' late surge past Stampeders

CFL. Defensive first half gives way to late shootout with teams combining for five fourth-quarter TDs

Alouettes running back Brandon Whitaker is tackled by Calgary's Torrey Davis on Thursday in Montreal.
PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rookie fullback Patrick Lavoie caught a last-minute touchdown pass after a Jerald Brown interception as the Montreal Alouettes pulled out a 33-32 comeback victory over the Calgary Stampeders in CFL action on Thursday night.

The visiting Stampeders (1-2) led by 12 points with 2:48 left to play, but Montreal quarterback Anthony Calvillo hit S.J. Green with a seven-yard TD pass to close the gap to five before Brown picked off a Kevin Glenn pass and ran it to the Calgary one-yard line.

It took Montreal (2-1) three tries before Lavoie caught, juggled and finally held on to Calvillo's game-winning toss with 48 seconds left to play.

Calgary back-up quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell scored two short-yardage touchdowns and Jon Cornish ran one in while Rene Paredes booted two field goals for Calgary, which beat Montreal 38-10 in their season opener on July 1.

The Calgary defence posted four sacks against a team that had allowed only one in their opening two games.

Brian Bratton also caught a touchdown pass and back-up quarterback Adrian McPherson ran one in for Montreal.

A tight, defensive battle turned into an shootout in the fourth quarter as the teams combined for five TDs.

Glenn got his first start as a Stampeder by replacing Drew Tate, who suffered a shoulder injury in a loss last week in Toronto. He struggled early, but started finding his range late in the first half and brought the Stampeders back from a 13-3 deficit beginning late in the second quarter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Moving up

Stampeders star Nik Lewis got the 42 yards he needed to pass Alouettes legend Hal Patterson for 23rd place in all-time receiving yards.

Still kings of the CFL jungle

CFL EXTRA POINTS
Dan Toth
vancouver@metronews.ca

Columnist Dan Toth explains why — despite their coach's claims — the Lions are still No. 1, who is the early front-runner for coach of the year and which player is gunning for vengeance in Week 3

Photos by The Canadian Press, Torstar News Service

No one buying Benevides' game of possum

Mike Benevides, coach of the Grey Cup champion B.C. Lions, is pumping the Saskatchewan Roughriders' tires, calling them the CFL's best team prior to the battle of 2-0 squads on Saturday in Regina. Nice try, but the Lions are clearly the best until someone knocks them off.

Bombers on road to recovery?

Four road games is an unenviable way to start the season, but this week the Bombers have a FREE space on their bingo cards called the Edmonton Eskimos. The Esks managed to score just one point last week in Regina and should inspire the Winnipeg defence to rediscover its long-lost swagger.

Chamblin a force to be reckoned with on Riders' sideline

The 2-0 Roughies face their best test of the young season by hosting the undefeated Lions on Saturday. An upset win and a 3-0 record would certainly be impressive following a 5-13 campaign in 2011, and would likely trigger early-season lobbying for new man Corey Chamblin as coach of the year.

Burris looking for last laugh vs. Toronto

The Argos might face their toughest test of the season, believe it or not, in a Week 3 showdown with the 0-2 Ticats, obviously hungry for a win. Tabbies QB Henry Burris appeared to be headed to Toronto in the off-season before the Ricky Ray-Steven Jyles trade was hatched, leaving Burris in a less attractive situation in Hamilton. Burris would love to make the Argos regret their decision, at least for one night.

Cycling

Pierre Rolland wins tough day at Tour de France

Pierre Rolland of France won the hardest Alpine stage in the Tour de France on Thursday, and Bradley Wiggins dusted defending champion Cadel Evans in the final climb to extend his overall lead.

Rolland gave the Europcar team its second straight stage win after the 148-kilometre 11th stage from Albertville that ended with a gruelling ascent to the ski resort of La Toussuire.

"I'd been dreaming about this stage for six months.... I got all sorts of messages this morning saying, 'It's your turn, it's your turn,'" said Rolland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Teemu Selanne GETTY IMAGES FILE

Selanne returns for 20th season

Teemu Selanne is returning to the Anaheim Ducks for his 20th NHL season.

The 42-year-old Selanne has agreed to a one-year, $4.5-million US deal, the Ducks announced Thursday.

The Finnish Flash is the 19th-leading scorer in NHL history with 1,406 points in two decades spent largely in Anaheim, his home for parts of 13 seasons. Selanne is 12th in league history with 663 goals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

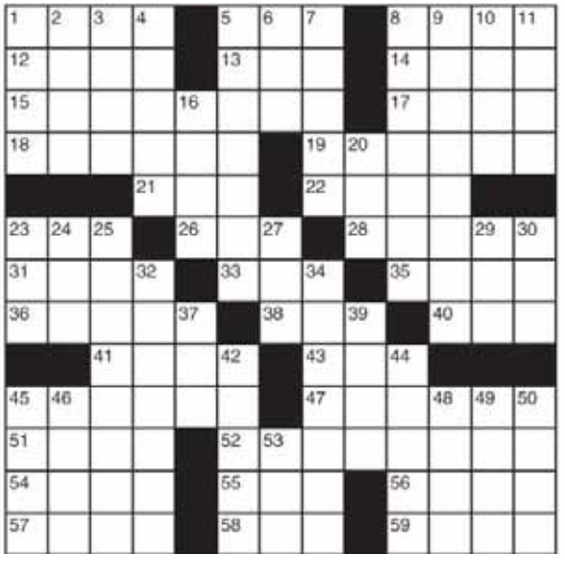
Encarnacion inks 3-year extension with Blue Jays

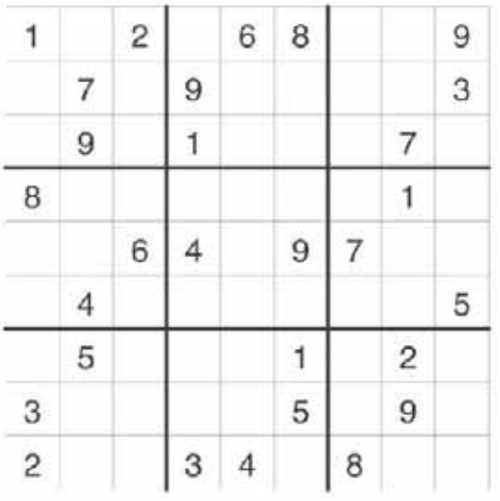
The Toronto Blue Jays have locked up one of their key offensive threats, signing Edwin Encarnacion to a three-year deal worth $27 million US.

The deal, which was announced Thursday, includes a $10-million club option for the 2016 season. The 29-year-old native of La Romana, Dominican Republic, is having a breakout offensive year for the Blue Jays. He is currently batting .295 with 23 home runs and 58 RBIs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Across
1 Guttural utterance
5 Cudgel
8 Chore
12 Pop
13 Mess up
14 Wreck
15 People in the house
17 "Survivor" setting, often
18 Antidepressant brand
19 Barely perceptible
21 Biblical verb suffix
22 Boot attachment
23 Eggs
26 Neptune's realm
28 Uses a teaspoon
31 Vendetta
33 Try the sherry
35 Apiece
36 Of the unborn
38 "— Doubtfire"
40 Aye undoer
41 Mined-over matter
43 Resistance unit
45 Box-office buy
47 Popular search engine
51 Farm fraction
52 Farewell
54 Equine coloration
55 Lingerie buy
56 Mid-month date
57 Army members
58 Scrooge portrayer Alastair
59 Being, to Brutus

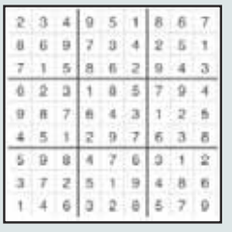
Down
1 PDQ
2 Session with a shrink
3 Taro tuber
4 Corn
5 Pews
6 Shuttlecock's path
7 Lock of hair
8 Purpose of an ode
9 Viennese, e.g.
10 Ledge
11 Wounded —
16 Comestibles
20 High times
23 Vacationing
24 Churchill gesture
25 Ruler with unlimited power
27 Intention
29 Nipper's co.
30 Bashful
32 Loses light
34 Telecast
37 Acting teacher Strasberg
39 Pump, for one
42 Impales
44 Flick
45 "GWTW" plantation
46 Clickable figure
48 Pantheon members
49 "True —"
50 Gaelic
53 Swiss canton





How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

ME KJS'BW RWWNMTX VJ YJZLVW KJSB YJTX-YJRV ELVGWB, EMBRV VBK ZGWZNMTX VGW ZYLRRMEMWO OLOR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A CARPENTER VISITS A LOCAL TAVERN, I SUPPOSE HE SHOULD ORDER A SCREWDRIVER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals Y

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Disputes of one kind or another are likely today and if you clash with someone in a position of power, you will come off second best.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. As Uranus, planet of the unexpected, begins its retrograde phase, you cannot afford to take anything you see or hear at face value.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Good news will come your way over the next 24 hours, but can you trust it? It's possible that there is a hidden catch of some kind, or something you must do in return.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Don't take anything for granted or take unnecessary risks. On the work front, especially, you cannot trust colleagues and employers to be totally honest with you. Watch your back.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. You'll get the chance to do something a little bit different today, something in which you would not normally be interested. Don't spend more money on it than you can afford.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. The planets warn that an idea you have for improving your lot in life could actually make things worse than before. What happens this weekend will remind you of that.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. If you put your ego needs above everything else today, you will create resentment among partners and colleagues. Get ahead, but it must not be at other people's expense.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You may believe that all things are possible but what happens over the next 24 hours will remind you that not everything comes easy.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. A week or so from now, the Sun will move into one of the most positive areas of your chart. When it does, your confidence will soar.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You seem to be in a forgiving mood at the moment, but try not to give others the impression that you are going soft in your old age.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You need to accept that certain situations are too big and too complicated for you to handle on your own. Either ask for assistance or focus on things you know how to deal with.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Life has been good to you lately. But as Uranus turns retrograde today you must prepare yourself for some kind of surprise, and it may not be a welcome one. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"Finger licking good! " Darryn

THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION, BOB MACK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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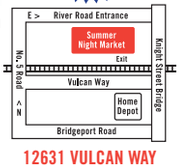
FREE ADMISSION!
Check out **SummerNightMarket.com** or call **604.278.8000** for Vendor and Sponsorship information.


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Kelowna	from $188 + taxes & fees $85
Las Vegas	from $218 + taxes & fees $125
Los Angeles	from $218 + taxes & fees $109
San Francisco	from $258 + taxes & fees $125
Paris	from $328 + taxes & fees $520
Costa Rica	from $349 + taxes & fees $309
Lima	from $349 + taxes & fees $453
Queen Charlotte Islands	from $428 + taxes & fees $114
Miami	from $429 + taxes & fees $137
Anchorage	from $549 + taxes & fees $139
Hong Kong	from $629 + taxes & fees $310

USA

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights
from $249
+ taxes & fees $125
INCLUDES accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $7 per night.

Seattle Labour Day Shopping Family Special, 2 Nights — from $125◊ taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom over Labour Day near downtown attractions. Price per person based on family of 4.

Anaheim Family Special Air + 4 Nights — from $185◊ + taxes & fees $66
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** *Disneyland* Resort 3-day *1-Park Per Day* Ticket from $235/adult, $219/child (ages 3-9). **BOOK** this package based on double occupancy from $368.

San Diego Air + 3 Nights — from $589 + taxes & fees $135
INCLUDES central accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **ADD** San Diego Zoo entry from $50.

Napa Valley Air + 3 Nights + Car — from $649 + taxes & fees $128
INCLUDES airfare to San Francisco, Napa Valley wine region accom and 3-day car rental with unlimited mileage. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $12 per night. **ADD** Grgich winery tour from $166.

New York Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $699 + taxes & fees $178
INCLUDES Midtown Manhatten accom.

Hawaii Island Hopper Air + 7 Nights — from $998 + taxes & fees $158
INCLUDES all airfare, 3 nights Waikiki accom on Oahu and 4 nights Kihei accom on Maui.

All-inclusive Vacations

Puerto Vallarta
7 Nights 4-Star
from $347
+ taxes & fees $341

Los Cabos 7 Nights 4-Star — from $375 + taxes & fees $340

Riviera Maya 7 Nights 5-Star — from $475 + taxes & fees $340

Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star — from $555 + taxes & fees $286

Canada

Osoyoos 2 Nights 4-Star
from $239
taxes & fees included
INCLUDES 1-bedroom suite accom located at a beachfront resort on Osoyoos Lake just minutes from some of BC's best vineyards and orchards.

Whistler Family Special 3 Nights 4-Star — from $93◊ taxes & fees included
INCLUDES Village accom with fully equipped kitchenette. **ADD** a tree trek canopy walk from $44. Price per person based on family of 4.

Kelowna 2 Nights — from $259 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES lakefront accom near downtown Kelowna.

Sunshine Coast 2 Nights — from $284 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom at the Best of B.C Wilderness Resort winner. **ADD** 3-hour guided kayaking on the Sechelt Inlet from $105.

Montreal & Quebec City Air + 5 Nights + Tours + Via Rail — from $1175 + taxes & fees $174
INCLUDES roundtrip air to Montreal, 2 nights Montreal accom with city tour, roundtrip VIA Rail ticket and 3 nights Quebec City accom with city tour and whale watching excursion to Baie-Ste-Catherine.

Vacations

Sydney Air + 8 Nights
from $1175
+ taxes & fees $845
INCLUDES accom in Potts Point. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $11 per night. **ADD** Sydney Opera house tour from $39.

Costa Rica Air + 8 Nights — from $1069 + taxes & fees $345
INCLUDES San Jose accom in the Central Valley. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $40 per night. **ADD** whitewater rafting from $110.

Cruise & Stays

Hawaii Air + 2 Nights + 12-Night Cruise
from $1199
+ taxes & fees $117
INCLUDES cruise from Vancouver to Honolulu visiting Kona, Kauai, Hilo and Maui, 2 nights Waikiki accom and return air to Vancouver. **UPGRADE** to balcony stateroom from $33 per night.

California Wine Cruise Air + 2 Nights + 8-Night Cruise — from $937 + taxes & fees $190
INCLUDES cruise from Vancouver to San Diego visiting Victoria, San Francisco and Monterey, 2 nights San Diego accom and return air to Vancouver.

New York Air + 2 Nights 4-Star + 7-Night Cruise — from $1279 + taxes & fees $356
INCLUDES airfare to New York, 2 nights 4-star Manhattan accom and 7-night cruise sailing roundtrip New York visiting Port Canaveral, Great Stirrup Cay and Nassau.

Europe

London Air + 7 Nights
from $793
+ taxes & fees $575
INCLUDES roundtrip airport transfers, breakfast daily and accom located between Kensington and Chelsea.

Frankfurt Air + 2 Nights + Rail — from $975 + taxes & fees $558
INCLUDES the first 2 nights central Frankfurt accom near the main railway station and 5-day Germany and Czech Republic rail pass.

Prague Air + 7 Nights — from $1099 + taxes & fees $584
INCLUDES central accom near shopping, attractions, restaurants and more.

Paris & London Air + 7 Nights + Tours — from $1559 + taxes & fees $520
INCLUDES airfare into London and return from Paris, airport transfers, 3 nights central London accom, 4 nights central Paris accom, sightseeing tour in both cities, Eurostar channel crossing and breakfast daily.

*Conditions apply. Ex: Vancouver. *Ex: Bellingham. Air only prices are per person for return travel unless otherwise stated. Package, cruise, tour, rail & hotel prices are per person, based on double occupancy for total length of stay unless otherwise stated. All-inclusive vacations include air. Prices are for select departure dates and are accurate and subject to availability at advertising deadline, errors and omissions excepted, and subject to change. Taxes & fees include transportation related fees, GST/HST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. ◊Price per person based on quad occupancy (2 adults & 2 children ages 2-17). †We will beat any written quoted airfare by $1 and give you a $20 voucher for future travel. "Fly Free" offer applies only where all "Lowest Airfare Guarantee" criteria are met but Flight Centre does not beat quoted price. Additional important conditions apply. For full terms and conditions visit www.flightcentre.ca/lowestairfareguarantee-flyfree. BC REG: #H02790*